



# THE INDEPENDENT

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THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

INGRID PITT, FIRST  
QUEEN OF VAMPIRES

MEDIA+

NEW LABOUR, NEW  
JEREMY PAXMAN

24 PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT

ENGLAND'S ASHES  
TURN TO DUST



Gillian Baverstock, elder daughter of Enid Blyton, with her mother's most famous creation, Noddy, during celebrations in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, marking today's centenary of the birth of the author. *Famous Five* a burden, page 2  
Photograph: Geraint Lewis

## Russians target British sex trade

Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

Foreign women are being smuggled into Britain to work as prostitutes in growing numbers by criminal gangs, including the Russian Mafia and Chinese Triads, one of the country's most experienced vice officers has revealed.

Police believe that gangsters are attempting to expand and take over parts of this country's multi-million pound sex industry. They have sent evidence to the Home Office and urged them to help co-ordinate action to tackle the growing problem.

The report, by Scotland Yard's Crime and Vice Unit, warns that the trafficking in foreign prostitutes has almost certainly spread to most cities and is threatening to "grow into a major criminal activity".

Most worryingly, the unit has evidence that organised



while investigating other forms of organised crime.

The underworld members and crooked "businessmen" are particularly interested in prostitutes working in escort agencies, brothels and saunas, which are highly profitable.

In one case a Brazilian man brought in about 100 women from his home country over a five-year period and forced them to work in two London based escort agencies. The women charged a minimum of £250 for one and a half hours but received only a tiny amount of the money. This one operation is believed to have netted the pimp £5m.

Evidence has been found to show that Triad gangs from Hong Kong have run brothels in London, Manchester, Dublin, and Glasgow and detectives believe they exist in most cities with a large Chinese community. They found that women were being moved

around the country and were treated virtually as slaves.

The Metropolitan Police's vice unit, which covers the country's largest concentration of prostitutes, prepared a report, "Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation" for chief constable and the Home Office.

The author of the report, Inspector Theo Dawson, the former head of the vice unit, now head of the gaming section and organiser of the National Vice Conference, said: "The trafficking of prostitutes from abroad is on the increase. I don't think we appreciate the scale of the problem." His report said the Triads "continue to open up new brothels and bring females into the UK with considerable ease".

Until now, despite warnings, there has been very little evidence of criminals from the old Soviet bloc moving into Britain. However, vice officers have found direct links between Russian

prostitutes working in London and high ranking eastern European criminals. One pimp told the police that he wanted to be the "vice king of Soho".

Inspect Dawson said: "We have intelligence to suggest that East European organised crime is infiltrating and developing prostitution in this country. They have identified that there does not appear to be any home-grown crime organisation controlling prostitution... Given the Mafia's propensity for violence it will be easy to them to scare off any opposition."

His report concludes: "Trafficking in prostitution is a problem which if not tackled will grow into a major criminal activity and undoubtedly bring with it other serious criminal offences... What is of most concern, and here there are parallels to the drugs industry, is that what we uncover is likely to be just the tip of the iceberg."

As war clouds roll over the Middle East, Syria is covertly forging a extraordinary new alliance with its old enemy, Saddam Hussein's Iraq. President Assad's about-turn, which will change the shape of Middle Eastern politics for years to come, aims not only to challenge Turkey's strategic partnership with Israel but - by drawing in Iran as well - form an invincible bloc in the Arab world.

Robert Fisk, page 8

**QUICKLY**  
New alliance

As war clouds roll over the Middle East, Syria is covertly forging a extraordinary new alliance with its old enemy, Saddam Hussein's Iraq. President Assad's about-turn, which will change the shape of Middle Eastern politics for years to come, aims not only to challenge Turkey's strategic partnership with Israel but - by drawing in Iran as well - form an invincible bloc in the Arab world.

Robert Fisk, page 8

**Diana's return**

Diana, Princess of Wales, returned last night from her visit to Bosnia to highlight the evils of landmines, with interest undimmed in her friendship with Dodi Fayed.

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## Great day for coming a sporting second

Louis Jebb  
and agencies

Sports fans enjoyed a feast of great British seconds on the tracks of Europe yesterday, with the 4x400 metres team coming off worse in a continuing struggle with the United States, at the World Athletics Championships in Athens, and Damon Hill, the motor racing world champion, coming heartbreakingly close to claiming victory in the Hungarian Grand Prix.

In Athens, the four-lap relay team had been billed as the last golden hope of a world title in a championship coloured a dull silver for an expectant press and public. Iwan Thomas, Mark

Richardson and Jamie Baulch, all finalists in the individual event, were joined in the relay final by Roger Black, the Olympic silver medallist. But after a sluggish start from Thomas, the fastest man in the world coming into the championships, the Americans stayed tantalisingly out of reach.

Hill, who has spent the season fending off the criticisms of media, fans and his team owner alike and battling to make a new car competitive, had an extraordinary triumph snatched from his grasp when mechanical trouble struck with victory in sight.

With three laps to go, Hill led by over 30 seconds from

Jacques Villeneuve, the Canadian lead driver with the once all-powerful Williams team which had dispensed with Hill's services at the end of last season, and was firmly on course to win his first race for Arrows.

But a hydraulic pump problem caused Hill's car to slow dramatically. He was powerless to resist as Villeneuve whittled down his advantage before passing him on the final lap, with Hill seeming to half lift his Arrows over the line to take second. It was still an extraordinary performance by Hill, who had only managed one world championship point this season previously, but who first hinted at what might be late in Saturday's

Hill said: "I started to have problems with the hydraulic pump. The throttle became intermittent and I couldn't change gear. I needed a 40-second lead on the final lap not 30." Tom Walkinshaw, Hill's Arrows team boss, could not hide his disappointment. "It's not easy," he said. "Damon did a fantastic job and deserved to win."

In football, the Premiership champions Manchester United are 13-1 with the bookmakers William Hill to lift the Premiership and FA Cup double after opening their league campaign with a 2-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur.

Full reports, Sport Table

practice session when he jumped from seventh to third place on the starting grid with his final flying lap.

With three laps to go, Hill led by over 30 seconds from

Full reports, Sport Table

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MS7

## news

## significant shorts

## Teenage girl dies in jetski collision with boat

A 17-year-old girl died yesterday when the jetski on which she was a passenger with her uncle was in collision with a power-boat towing a water skier on a lake. Fay Grundy, who went to Queen's Park Lake at Berinsfield, Oxfordshire, as part of her sister's birthday celebrations, was thrown into the power boat's propeller by the collision. She suffered massive stomach injuries and lost a leg. Despite rescue attempts the teenager died on her way to hospital.

Her 36-year-old uncle who escaped with a minor head injury was later arrested by police in connection with the accident and released on bail pending further inquiries. A full police investigation was under way yesterday. Health and safety executives also launched an inquiry.

## Three charged in heroin haul

Police yesterday charged three men in connection with the seizure of heroin worth £100m which was found in a lorry.

The 200kg haul – one of the largest to be seized in Britain – was found in the Slovenian-registered lorry in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, last week. Scotland Yard said the three men had been charged with conspiracy to import and supply the drug. They are due to appear in custody at Hendon magistrates court today.

It named the men as Boštjan Mrak, 33, of Slovenia; Ali Osman Cok, 36, of Edmonton, north London; and Maher Kaynar, of Barnet, north London. Three other men who were questioned, were released on police bail.

## Couple make love at the altar

A couple have been interviewed by police after they were caught by a Catholic priest as they made love near the altar of his church. The 17-year-old boy and a woman of 21 are being reported to the Crown Prosecution Service with a view to charges being brought.

Det Sgt-Pwys Pollici said the couple have admitted making love at the Church of Our Lady of the Taper at Cardigan in west Wales. They were found undressed on a aisle close to the altar as the priest, Father James Cunnane, was locking up.

Later Fr Cunnane held a Mass to re-bless the church after what he called "an act of sacrilege".

## Jagger jacket sells for £200



A silk jacket belonging to Mick Jagger (pictured) sold for £200 at a charity auction yesterday.

The auction was the climax of a two-week long scarecrow festival at Groomebridge Place Gardens and Enchanted Forest, near Tadworth, Kent, with proceeds going to Save the Children.

Other items on sale included a dress designed and worn by Vivienne Westwood, a pair of crushed velvet trousers, complete with rip, worn on stage by Wet Wet Wet lead singer Marti Pellow, and a cravat worn by cult singer Mike Flowers Pop.

Jagger's blue silk jacket was bought by a Brighton man who said he was "more of a Beatles fan" but wanted it as an investment for his daughter.

## Four escape crash landing

A light aircraft with four people on board crash landed in a field last night. The aircraft came down near houses in the village of Moreby, near Whitehaven, in Cumbria. One man suffered a minor injury to his ankle and was taken to the West Cumbria Hospital in Whitehaven. The three others escaped unharmed. The plane appeared to have developed a mechanical fault, police said.

## Picnic for toads and newts

Conservationists staged a protest picnic yesterday at the site of a rare haven for frogs, toads and newts which they fear is under threat from the same farmer who destroyed a neighbouring wildlife site. Offham Marshes, near Lewes, Sussex, are owned by Justin Harmer who admits it is "an option" to plough them up and plant flax to earn European Union farming subsidies.

Earlier this year he ploughed Offham Down Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a chalk grassland site less than a mile away, under a loophole in European law which has been widely criticised. Tony Blair, as Opposition leader, said such "completely crazy" activities would not be permitted under a Labour government.

Matt Phillips, of Friends of the Earth, yesterday challenged Labour to honour its pre-election pledge on the environment. "Every year hundreds of our best nature sites are destroyed or damaged. The law must be strengthened to ensure they are given better protection," Louise Jury

## Minke whale death toll doubles

Fears for the future of minke whales in the North Sea have increased after Norwegian whalers more than doubled their kills. Norway's whaling fleet killed 57 minkes during the latest season, compared with only 23 last year, according to its own figures.

The figures also coincide with a dearth of minke whales around Shetland, the leading spot in Britain for sightings.

Speaking on Shetland yesterday, wildlife expert Hugh Harrop said: "Usually we see 20 or 30 minkes during the season. This year there have been only two or three. It may be wrong to draw conclusions. But the large percentage increase of killings in the North Sea this year is certainly interesting."

"Whether the whales' absence is connected with low availability of fish stocks or to the fact that northern part of the North Sea is gradually being depleted of whales, remains to be seen."

## Toddler killed in car tragedy

A 16-month-old girl died at the weekend after being struck by a car which was being driven by her father. The accident happened on Saturday as the man was manoeuvring the car slowly outside the family home in Findon, West Sussex. Police believe the toddler had run out in front of the car without being seen. She died instantly.

Inspector Steve O'Rourke of Sussex Police, said: "The family are extremely distressed. The father was carrying out a low-speed manoeuvre when the child was knocked down."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) warned parents to take extra care when moving vehicles in the presence of children, following similar accidents in the past.

## Three scoop £4.7m lottery

Three winners netted £4.7m each after scooping Saturday's £14.3m National Lottery jackpot. They matched the six lucky numbers: 1, 18, 20, 25, 30, 31. The bonus number was 44.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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## people



Enid Blyton: Never planned her stories in advance

## How the Famous Five became a burden for Enid Blyton

Enid Blyton grew tired of writing her Famous Five books, and only continued because her publishers insisted, the author's daughter Gillian Baverstock told the Edinburgh Book Festival yesterday.

Miss Baverstock said her mother had only wanted to write six of the Famous Five series but churned out 21 between 1942 and 1963. "She told me she was getting a bit tired of some of the characters," Ms Baverstock said.

Today is the 100th anniversary of Enid Blyton's birth and her daughter began the celebrations yesterday by leading a workshop for young children at the festival. It was a little confusing for some of the underives, a few of whom confessed afterwards that they thought it had been Enid Blyton herself talking to them.

Miss Baverstock said her mother never planned a story in advance, and wrote each Famous Five story in five days. She said she would come in from school each day, pick up a pile of papers that her mother had been writing, rush up to her bedroom and read them and ask her mother what happened next. She would reply: "I don't know what's coming next; I won't know until I've finished the story." Typing 10,000 words a day was not a problem for her mother, she said.

Miss Baverstock is lending her support to a new marketing campaign to sell Enid Blyton to the Americans. Though Blyton sells 8.5 million copies a year worldwide, her sales in America are flat. Now, the Enid Blyton Company, owned by Trocadero plc which bought the rights to Blyton last year, has authorised a new animation of Noddy complete with American accents for showing on American television next year. Miss Baverstock defended this yesterday, saying: "Quite honestly, you have to translate books to go into the USA now. Real English has diverged so much from American English."

The new Noddy animation series will be made in a Canadian animation house called Catalyst. There will also be some film in the series from the British company Cosgrove Hall, but the bulk will be Canadian and both Noddy and Big Ears will have North American accents. The series will be shown on PBS, America's public broadcasting service, next year.

Miss Baverstock also said her mother had written many stories that were never published, and the Enid Blyton Company confirmed yesterday that it was examining 300 unpublished stories in the Blyton archives, and intended to turn some into television series.

Signing Noddy, Famous Five and Secret Seven books at the book festival yesterday, Miss Baverstock delighted each child and parent by telling them what her mother thought about the book, when and how it was written and also giving her own opinion of it. The queue moved very slowly.

David Lister  
Leading article, page 14

## Scrap merchant set to make millions out of £1 investment

A scrap-metal merchant who bought a bulk carrier for £1 when it sank off the Irish coast 11 years ago is now ready to raise its cargo – an estimated £7m in iron ore.

Shaun Kent, 39, has spent the last decade raising funds and developing the technology to extract the tiny marbles of ore from the hold of the Kowloon Bridge which lies two miles off the coast of County Cork. The expertise he accumulated has already helped the families of the 44 men who died when the Kowloon Bridge's sister ship, the Derbyshire, sank 17 years ago. Mr Kent (right) was the first to pinpoint the site of the Derbyshire wreck, prompting new inquiries into the tragedy.

He is now putting the finishing touches to the diving ship for the mission which he believes will make his fortune. He aims to start work this month, snubbing critics who believed it would never happen, and expects the entire mission to be completed by the end of next summer. "I'd always had a bet that I would retire by 40 and I've blown that, because I'm 40 next March. But that's all right. When I'm done, I'm just looking forward to planting millions of trees which are my real love in life."

The project will be featured in a GeoFilms documentary, *The Flying Scrapman*, to be broadcast on Channel 4 tonight.

Mr Kent, who was born in Shorne, Kent, left school at 15 but



## Presidential role for Jane Asher

The actress Jane Asher, has accepted a new role as president of the National Autistic Society.

Ms Asher, who has been involved with the society for more than 10 years, already sits on the board of several charities as well as acting, writing and running her own cake shop.

Her first novel, *The Longing*, was well received and she is currently working on her second. She has already written several cookery and children's books and is a cake consultant for Sainsbury's, McVities, and British Airways.

But despite all this, and a successful marriage of 25 years to the cartoonist Gerald Scarfe, she feels her nickname, Superwoman is unfair.

"It's a total illusion really. My life is actually disorganized and I rush from one thing to another," she said a few months ago – just before the start of her 25-part television show.

Ms Asher said of her new appointment: "Autism is a complex condition and I am happy to do what I can to help highlight the problems that people with autism and their families face."

"I am proud to be part of the excellent work that the NAS is doing and have enjoyed my association immensely."

"I am looking forward to further developing my role within the society and to helping influence a greater understanding of autism."

Louise Jury

## Blind women's trek ends in tears of joy

The first blind women to walk the length of Britain ended their marathon charity trek yesterday after 882 miles on the road.

Dorothy Oliver, 43, from Edinburgh, and Sandra Brumby, 50, a grandmother from South Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, celebrated with champagne at Land's End.

Ms Brumby, who worked out at a fitness centre before the walk, said at the finish today: "It was extremely exciting, far more emotional than I thought it would be." Hotdaymakers, members of their support group and guides clapped them home the last few steps, and she admitted: "It got to me. There were big tears."

Ms Brumby and Ms Oliver volunteered for the walk after the audio magazine *Weekend Listener* asked for two women volunteers after two blind men made the trip last year.

"It is the most adventurous thing I have done," said Ms Brumby who has backpacking experience. "I feel fitter than when I started – and I only have one blister," she said.

Ms Oliver, a telephonist at Foun-

tainbridge Citizens Advice Bureau, said the trek was a "just wonderful" experience. "It was the biggest physical challenge I have undertaken," she said Ms Oliver, who in the past has tried her hand at skiing and mountain climbing.

Hotdaymakers, guides, families and local communities who accompanied them along the way.

Hotdaymakers, guides, families and

families sponsored food and accommodation, and thousands put contributions into collection buckets along the route.

## briefing

## EMPLOYMENT

## British workers riding high in EU prosperity league

Workers have a better standard of living in the UK than in most other European Union countries even though their pay is often lower, according to a report today.

The average employee in Britain receives the equivalent of £6.80 an hour compared with £6.50 in Germany, £6.30 in France and £5.70 in Sweden, after adjustments for national differences in pricing and purchasing power, it was reported. Only workers in Luxembourg (£7.40 an hour), Austria (£7.10) and Ireland (£7) receive more in net pay, said consultants Sedgwick Noble Lowndes.

"For many years the general impression has been that UK employees enjoy a lower standard of living than in other parts of central and northern Europe. This is certainly not borne out by the figures today," said David Formosa, Sedgwick's international research manager. "Other countries may offer higher gross salaries but this does not mean that their citizens are always better off."

Workers pay a comparatively smaller amount in tax and welfare contributions in the UK, which compensates for the generally lower level of earnings, said the report. For the average worker, deductions from gross earnings are 25 per cent in the UK compared with 33 per cent in Germany and 38 per cent in Denmark. Bottom of the league is Portugal, where workers receive the equivalent of £3.20 an hour despite having the lowest amount deducted from their salaries, the report showed.

## LEISURE

## TV saga fuels surge in tourism

The television blockbuster *Pride and Prejudice* is still helping draw the crowds to historic houses, it was disclosed today.

Two homes used in BCC's filming of the classic Jane Austen novel saw big leaps in visitor numbers last year, said the English Tourist Board.

Lyme Park in Disley, Cheshire, which "doubled" as Mr Darcy's palatial Pemberley estate – had a 42 per cent increase in visitors in 1996, compared with the 1995 total. And Sudbury Hall in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, used for internal shots of Pemberley, did even better: visitor numbers soared 59 per cent. In addition, 1996 saw a 39 per cent increase in visitors to Saltram in Plympton near Plymouth, which featured in the film version of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, featuring Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet. "With *Pride and Prejudice* being shown again this year on television, we're hoping visitor numbers will rise again in 1997," said an English Tourist Board spokeswoman.

The figures were part of a an overall ETB survey which showed that visits to English historic properties in 1996 rose 2 per cent to 70.4 million. These visitors spent £231m – an 8 per cent increase on 1995's figure. Sixteen properties had 20 per cent increases in visitor levels in 1996 and nearly 60 attracted more than 200,000. Of those charging admission (see table), the Tower of London was the most popular.

## Top ten attractions

1. Tower of London	2.53m
2. Canterbury Cathedral	1.2m
3. Windsor Castle	1.2m
4. St Paul's Cathedral	1.1m
5. Puffin Room, Bath	502,286
6. Warwick Castle	520,000
7. Stonehenge	747,544
8. Hampton Court Palace	612,155
9. Leeds Castle, Kent	

# Calls grow for national debate on drugs



Dillon Hull, the five-year-old victim of a drug turf clash

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair last night was facing growing calls from Labour backbenchers for an open debate about the decriminalisation of drugs after the killing of a five-year-old in Bolton.

Brian Iddon, the Labour MP for Bolton West, became the latest in a line of MPs to "think the unthinkable" by questioning the Government's policy of saying no to decriminalising drugs.

The boy's mother, Jane Hull, is facing eviction from her £70-a-week terraced house in

Jauncey Street. *The Independent* on Sunday reported that her landlady, Daxa Patel, is meeting lawyers today over her tenancy following warnings of another attack on the boy's stepfather. John Bates and residents' demands for them to leave the area.

The aftermath of the murder of Dillon Hull in what police believe was part of the turf wars between drug dealers has made Labour MPs bolder in calling for drug law reform.

Some MPs want drugs such as Ecstasy and cannabis to be legalised with more information

about safe use, and hard drugs such as heroin to be freely prescribed by GPs.

Clare Short mentioned the word "decriminalisation" and got into hot water for doing so but there are a number of people on the Labour backbenchers who want an open, honest discussion about the drug problem," said Mr Iddon.

The controversy over the killing may also increase the support for a new all-party Commons group on drugs reform.

Paul Flynn, the Labour MP and a campaigner for drugs de-

criminalisation, claimed 25 Labour MPs had put down their names to join the group, including the Blairite members of the new intake with the Tory peer, Lord Mancroft, a former heroin addict.

Mr Flynn said the Government's appointment of a "drugs Czar" would open the debate.

It had been a failure in America, and he said the terms of the

Government's recent advertisement for the "Czar", calling for a war on drugs, showed the Government had learned none of the lessons of dealing with organised crime.

A backlash among some Labour MPs against Peter Mandelson, minister in charge of presentation of policy, would strengthen other Labour MPs in insisting that the drugs issue should be aired, he added.

"We are a drug-obsessed House of Commons but it is irrational. Almost all the premature deaths of MPs are drug-related.

"MPs' heads go back when I say that but there are 16 bars in the House of Commons and they sound off about drugs with a whisky in one hand, a cigarette in the other, and a pack-

et of Paracetamol in their top pocket," said Mr Flynn.

A Downing Street source said the Government would not seek to prevent the debate, but it would strongly oppose the liberalisation of the drugs laws.

"The party and the Government is opposed to that, and there will be no change in our position," said the source.

Mr Iddon is an unlikely rebel. He is 57, part of the new intake of Labour MPs, and a reader in chemistry at Salford University, and a Bolton borough councillor.

Mr Iddon said Labour

"hacked off" the debate about legalisation of soft drugs when it was raised by Ms Short, before she was appointed as the minister for international development. Ms Short survived the row, but was demoted from transport to be put in charge of the former overseas aid portfolio before the election.

Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, won the right to keep Britain's border controls at the EU Amsterdam as part of the strategy inherited from the Tories of combatting drug smuggling and selling with tough criminal laws.

**The shirt was Lauren, the jeans were by Armani ... and the tears flowed right on cue**

**Kim Sengupta reports from Bosnia**

Diana, Princess of Wales, could not resist one last photo opportunity of the tour, on the airport runway with a group of French servicemen. The first thing she did on getting on to George Soros's private plane was to dive into a pile of Sunday newspapers with stories about herself and Dodi al-Fayed.

That final scene seemed to sum up the nature of her visit to Bosnia.

It was meant to highlight the casualties of landmines but inevitably became subsumed by the unfolding tale, in London, of her relationship with the son of the Harrods owner. There was a further problem. As "Queen of Hearts" the Princess may well be one of Britain's most visible exports, but in the parts of Bosnia where she visited those injured by mines, she simply was not known.

**'In parts of Bosnia she simply was not known'**

An element of bathos ran throughout the three-day tour. Yesterday, at the deprived and battered suburb of Bujakov Potek, which like the rest of Sarajevo had suffered much in the war, the Princess went to meet 15-year-old Mirzeta Gabelic, who had lost her right leg in an explosion.

Since the Bosnia visit was meant to be "strictly private", there were around 100 journalists with her.

The Princess arrived wearing a pink Ralph Lauren shirt and Armani jeans. The locals mostly looked bewildered. A young man asked by his friend what the tour was about, replied: "Some Diana is moving in". Another said that "They are coming to clean up the water."

The Princess's visits to the homes of those injured by mines were kept secret from her hosts.

and were meant to be "surprises".

This led to some confusion. Mohammed Soljankic, who lost both legs to a mine, was told that on his birthday he would get two presents, a pair of artificial legs and a visit from a general in the international peace-keeping force.

When the Princess arrived the Soljankic family stood in embarrassed silence, not knowing who their guest was; neighbours seemed bemused by the centre of such media attention. There was also resentment at Mr Soljankic's good fortune. He was apparently not liked for a number of reasons, the least libellous of which appeared to be a convoluted tale involving a goat.

However, the Princess was unfazed by all this. To show her care and to bring comfort she pressed on with her visits and embraced perfect strangers.

Yesterday, at the Lav Cemetery in Sarajevo, she hugged the mother of Iadic Dragan, who is buried there, after deciding to make an unscheduled stop to look at graves. Mrs Dragan had gone to place some flowers on her son's grave and was not expecting the encounter, but according to those present, smiled at the end.

People from anti-landmine pressure groups and charities who accompanied the Princess on her trip said that she regularly cried during visits to homes of victims. Ken Rutherford, of the Landmine Survivors Network, said: "There are tears and water in her eyes at many visits." He added that the Princess was passionately committed to helping victims of landmines.

The Princess's trip to Angola as part of her landmine crusade last year was judged to be a huge success. The present trip, because of the controversy of her relationship with Mr Fayed, could be said to be much less so. Although journalists covering the Princess's trip have been trying to highlight the problem of landmines, one Sarajevo-based counterpart complained: "All you lot want to do is find out what she did with Dodi."

Though barely known to the British paparazzi, Brenna is a respected photographer in the worlds of fashion and Mediterranean high society.

He has been an official photographer to fashion houses including Versace, and augmented his living by photographing some of the smartest parties.

The most successful people in this business are the ones that can cross from one sort of thing to another. He's one of them," said one journalist yesterday.

A photographer said: "He's a very smooth chap and, I expect, a very desirable one right now."

It is understood that the Sunday Mirror, which is part of the Mirror Group, a shareholder in The Independent, paid around £250,000 for its exclusive rights to the pictures yesterday and other tabloids are rumoured to have paid £100,000 each for more today.

The deals in Britain have been brokered by London photographer Jason Fraser. It is understood he was contacted by



Snap-happy: French members of the peace-keeping force focus on the Princess in Sarajevo after her trip highlighting the plight of landmine victims

Photograph: Reuters

## Paparazzo who will snap up millions

**Louise Jury**

While Diana, Princess of Wales, was posing for the photographers with landmine victims in Bosnia, the focus back home was on a set of pictures which showed her in a much more informal setting.

Mario Brenna is set to become a millionaire from his snaps of the princess on a yacht off the coast of Sardinia with Dodi Fayed, the millionaire playboy son of the Harrods owner, Mohamed Al Fayed.

It is understood Brenna, a 40-year-old Italian who lives in Monaco, happened to spot the Fayed boat, *Jonikal*, as he was in the area on other photographic assignments.

The sight of Princess Diana and Mr Fayed relaxing together in swimming costumes caught with his telephone lens appeared in the Sunday Mirror yesterday and are set for publication around the world today. The reproduction rights over the next year or two could net Mr Brenna several million pounds.

Though barely known to the British paparazzi, Brenna is a respected photographer in the worlds of fashion and Mediterranean high society.

He has been an official photographer to fashion houses including Versace, and augmented his living by photographing some of the smartest parties.

The most successful people in this business are the ones that can cross from one sort of thing to another. He's one of them," said one journalist yesterday.

A photographer said: "He's a very smooth chap and, I expect, a very desirable one right now."

It is understood that the Sunday Mirror, which is part of the Mirror Group, a shareholder in The Independent, paid around £250,000 for its exclusive rights to the pictures yesterday and other tabloids are rumoured to have paid £100,000 each for more today.

The deals in Britain have been brokered by London photographer Jason Fraser. It is understood he was contacted by



Exclusive: The Sunday Mirror front page yesterday

Brenna earlier this week and is handling the rights in America and Australia as well as the UK.

Negotiations would have been carried out at the most senior newspaper management level. Half a dozen papers were contacted and an agreement was struck. The *Mail on Sunday* later offered an increased bid, but Fraser refused to renege on the *Sunday Mirror* deal.

Fraser is known as a photographer who works alone.

His assignments have included photographing Colonel Gaddafi after the bombing of Tripoli but he also frequently pictures the British royal family.

He once handled a roll of film to Princess Diana when she was upset at being photographed leaving a dinner party with a stranger.

The French rights to Brenna's pictures are being handled by Daniel Angeli, who took the notorious Duchess of York toe-sucking pictures.

He said he's a public person, he's a public individual. What he regretted were the consequences for his wife and family and he made a very fulsome apology to his wife and to his two boys for the hounding that they subsequently received.

He said he was against introducing statutory laws on press and privacy, and he cast doubt on claims that the Government plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law would mean new curbs on the press.

Mr Mandelson said the convention gives protection to both the individual's right to privacy and the media's right to freedom of expression. "You've got two competing rights there and they've got to be properly balanced," he said. The Government would leave it up to the judges to determine the balance, said Mr Mandelson, who saw nothing wrong with media coverage of Robin Cook's decision to leave his wife after 28 years to live with his secretary.

"Robin Cook himself has

said he's a public person, he's a public individual. What he regretted were the consequences for his wife and family and he made a very fulsome apology to his wife and to his two boys for the hounding that they subsequently received.

"Although I must say I think even that has been tempered by a great deal of responsibility and sensitivity shown in the main by the press," Mr Mandelson said on BBC Breakfast with Frost.

"The problem of having an all-encompassing privacy law being introduced by Parliament is the protection it gives to those who don't merit protection," added the minister.

"The press, when it's doing its job properly, when it's not just engaging in gossip and tit-tat-tat and having a go at various individuals ... is exposing wrongdoing and corruption and malpractice. I would hate to see the day when the British press are prevented from exposing that wrongdoing."

## Accused Saudi nurses must wait a week for court verdict

**Louise Jury**

The judge in the case of the two British nurses accused of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia has retired to consider the evidence and the verdict.

A decision in the case of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan is expected to take at least another week.

The two women are accused

of murdering the Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford, 55, in December last year.

Miss Gilford's body was found in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran with multiple stab wounds.

In a last-minute move, lawyers defending the two women yesterday presented the court in Khorbat with new evidence it had requested from

Australia on the mental competence of Miss Gilford's 84-year-old mother, Muriel, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Under Saudi law, the victim's family have the right to accept "blood money" or compensation from Miss Parry and Miss McLauchlan in place of execution if the two are convicted.

Frank Gilford, the dead

nurses' brother, has called for the death penalty on his mother's behalf as well as his own on the grounds that she is incapable of making a decision.

The victim's relatives have to be unanimous in any call for capital punishment and it is unclear whether Mrs Gilford is well enough to make a decision.

An Australian court on Friday ordered Mr Gilford to refrain from calling for the British

They said the new evidence was "a major breakthrough" but would not elaborate.

But lawyers representing Miss McLauchlan, 31 from Dundee, and Miss Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, said in a statement issued in Riyadh last week that they had obtained new evidence about the mental competence of Mrs Gilford, which was due to be put to the court yesterday.

But he said no public announcement of the verdict would be made.

Grant Ferrie, Miss McLauchlan's fiancé, is in Saudi Arabia and visited the two women in Damman central prison on Saturday and again yesterday.

Their relatives have expressed concern about the women's health, which they said was deteriorating in Damman Central Prison.

However, Mr Ashbee said they were in "reasonable spirits" based on what we have been telling them on what has been

happening in Australia.

If the women are found innocent they will be released from prison, but if they are found guilty the case automatically goes through the appeal system.

The two nurses claim they were forced to make confessions under the threat of sexual mistreatment from their interrogators, and have since retracted their statements.

## the vice invasion

# The slavemaster who bought village girls for a Mona Lisa life of sex and degradation



Caught in the act: A police surveillance photograph showing Carlos Pires, the convicted Brazilian pimp, picking up one of his Brazilian prostitutes outside his escort agency in Paddington, west London, to take her to a hotel for sex with a customer

Jason Bennetto on the foreign gangs taking over prostitution

For £250, the Copacabana Escort Agency could guarantee you sexual satisfaction. A balding pimp, or one of his two hired hands, would drive the young Brazilian women to the London hotel of your choice.

The "escorts", many of them naive village girls, often came dressed in just a fur coat and shoes to avoid wasting time with the client - just like the prostitute in the film *Mona Lisa*.

Once the sex was completed, the girl would repeat one of the few English phrases she had been taught: "Where is my present?"

With the money in her pocket, she would return to the agency in one of two buildings in a seedy part of London, where about a dozen other Brazilian women were housed and effectively enslaved.

For years, this was the lucrative trade plied by Carlos Pires, a Brazilian "businessman", who until his conviction last year is believed to have made £5m for his escort businesses which involved smuggling in about 100 women.

The police believe Pires, 53, is just the "tip of the iceberg" and have evidence to prove that organised criminals, including members of Hong Kong Triad gangs and high-ranking East European gangsters, are now trying to take over and expand parts of Britain's sex industry.

The case of Carlos Pires

shows the potential for foreign criminals in an industry that is very lucrative and relatively risk free.

Pires and his girlfriend persuaded about 100 Brazilian women, aged between 18 and 25, to come to London to work as nannies, maids, dancers and escorts. Some knew they were becoming involved in sexual services, others did not. They were all promised money and a bright future.

The reality was being forced to work as a prostitute to serve 10 to 15 men in a 12-hour session, six to seven days a week. The escort agencies were advertised in magazines. From

the minimum charge of £250 for sex, the women were allowed to keep £50-£60. Their passports and travel documents were confiscated so they could not run away.

Each woman was charged between £7,500 to £9,000 for being brought into the UK and £350 to £450 a week for accommodation and expenses.

A 150-page ledger was kept to record what the women owed which included charges for electricity, use of television, even condoms. In one case a woman who had earned the sum of £20,000 still "owed" £11,000.

In March last year, Pires was

jailed for three and a half years for living on immoral earnings and smuggling in women. A confiscation order of £725,000 was also made against him.

Evidence is emerging to show that organised gangs are already starting to move into the British market.

The Immigration Service and police, working together, uncovered an operation involving at least two men, one of whom was high-ranking criminal from Lithuania, bringing in up to 55 women from Russia to the UK to work as prostitutes in flats in central London.

In October 1995, their associate, Jan Borovik, who used

the alias "Ian Bush", was jailed for 21 months for blackmail and two counts of living on immoral earnings. Borovik told the police that he wanted to be the "vice king of Soho" and vowed to return.

Evidence has also been found to show that Triad gangs from Hong Kong have run brothels in London, Manchester, Dublin and Glasgow and detectives believe they exist in most cities with a large Chinese community.

Since 1992, the police have raided six separate Triad-run brothels in London. They found inside about 10 women from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand who had been brought over under false pretences.

They were forced to work 12-14-hour shifts, seven days a week, earning only a very small percentage of the fee for sex - £100 for an hour - in which the punters were allowed to have sex twice. The women were also charged for their air fares, rent and meals. They had their identification papers confiscated.

Some of the girls were prostitutes from the Far East, others were village girls, who had been promised good money and conditions in Britain.

Criminals from South East Asia, particularly Malaysia, have recently been discovered supplying London brothels, pimps and escort agencies with women.

Today, if anyone wants to hire a foreign prostitute it could not be simpler. Escort agencies in the back of listings magazines boast a "selection of international girls". The woman at one company said that for a minimum of £220 she could send over a selection of Russian escorts - "blonde, brunette, we have a big choice," in about 30 minutes. An extra hour would cost £50.

Obtaining a Thai, Japanese or Chinese prostitute was just as easy. The cost for two hours' company was £200. A man at the escort company said: "We can guarantee you satisfaction."

The escorts often came dressed in just a fur coat and shoes to avoid wasting time with the client. After sex, they would ask, "where is my present?"



Life imitating art: Bob Hoskins and Cathy Tyson in a scene from *Mona Lisa*

World of organised crime sweeps into Britain

**AMERICAN**  
K.L.P. MASSAGE

**SOUTH AMERICA**  
Women recruited as au pairs

including most of the capital's top establishments.

About 10 women were kept at one time in two houses in west London, where they had to pay for their board and lodging. They were only allowed to keep a tiny proportion of the money they earned.

For the first few nights some girls were kept in hotels, wine and dined, and had their photographs taken in hired dresses before being thrust into brothels.

The agency charged £250 for sex with women, which usually took place in hotels throughout London.

## Prisoners of Triads

### THE FAR EAST

Chinese Triads, particularly the 14K and Wo Shing Wo groups, bring prostitutes to Britain from the Far East and keep them virtually as prisoners in brothels. Women, some of whom were already prostitutes, while others have been tricked into coming, travel as tourists or illegally on false documents. They are kept about 10 to 12 in a house in London, Glasgow, Manchester, and Dublin - most cities with a large Chinese community.

Only Oriental men are allowed into the brothels, where they pay £100 for sex twice in an hour.

The women have their documents taken away and are only allowed outside with a minder. The gangsters threaten to kill their families if they speak to the police. The women have very little English and when eventually deported

### THAILAND BEAUTY

repatriated leave with just a few hundred pounds.

The women are believed to be moved around the country every two to four months to provide more choice for the clients.

Others from the Far East have also come to London and contacted brothels, pimps and escort agencies offering to supply new women from abroad. They charge the pimp about £3,000 and the woman £5,000. The women are smuggled in or through on a false identity or on a holiday visa.



OPEN LATE

### EASTERN EUROPE

East European criminals, including Russian gangsters, believe the UK sex industry is ripe for takeover as no one is in overall control and there are big profits. The Russian mafia have already moved into vice in cities such as Amsterdam and Hamburg. There is evidence of setting up small brothels in flats in Soho, where Russian prostitutes are kept. It is feared they are about to expand. They usually operate by sending one of their representatives to an existing brothel, pimp or escort agency, and offer to provide prostitutes from the Eastern bloc. This continues until gangsters know how the system works.

They then use extreme violence, including firearms, to threaten pimps and take over the operation. They are particularly interested in escort services and massage parlours because there is more money to be made in these areas and very little harassment from police, who are more concerned about street prostitutes and pimps. When police have arrested Russian prostitutes the women have repeated a prepared "script" claiming political asylum. Privately they admit they are too frightened to testify against their bosses.

Russian mafia eye UK riches

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150 من الارجمن

## Summer warms up, but the heat comes off for city bladers

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

In-line skating has found a new champion in the Government with Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Mr Smith has told officials that he wants to protect in-line skating in the Royal Parks from any renewed attempts to ban the sport.

He privately told friends he has come under renewed pressure since the election to curb in-line skating because of the risk to other park users. Parks police have been lobbying for a by-law to impose penalties, such as fines on those who break park rules covering in-line skating.

"If you are a little old grannie walking your chihuahua and you see a Panzer brigade of Rollerbladers coming, it can be intimidating," said a parks source. Mr Smith, who does not do the sport, is firmly digging in his heels on behalf of the skaters. The demands for a ban started two years

ago when a BBC researcher, Mark Welch, 26, was killed when a skater crashed into the bicycle he was riding.

The coroner accused the Royal Parks Agency of "spineless acquiescence to minority groups" for bowing to pressure from the skaters. Within weeks, it announced that in-line skating would be restricted to cy-

cle tracks in Hyde Park, the Serpentine Road and on Sundays, when traffic is prohibited - South Carriage Drive. In Kensington Gardens, in-line skating was allowed on the Albert Memorial Road and in a special area set aside for it on the Broadwalk. But it was banned in Green Park and Greenwich Park, St

James's Park and Regent's Park. Skaters said the curbs were "undemocratic" and if there is more skating weather, Mr Smith may come under pressure to allow the skaters more freedom to roll.

Sunbathers basking in the sweltering weather will be targeted in a skin safety campaign run by Cancer

Research Campaign, which is launching a national six-day tour of beaches and parks across the UK to encourage sun worshippers to take precautions. The roadshows will incorporate sun protection advice and campaigners will be slapping sun lotion on sunbathers. The focus is to be on educating children about the

damaging effects of the sun in the light of a recent poll which showed that British youngsters would rather have a tan than be thin. Campaigners warn that a history of sunburn in childhood can increase the likelihood of developing skin cancer as an adult. As temperatures soared on Saturday in the south of England

thousands of holidaymakers were caught in a traffic jam on the M5 from Gloucester to Exeter, in Devon.

London, the Midlands and East Anglia saw the highest temperatures, with a peak of 30C. The hot spell is due to break during the week but will return next weekend.

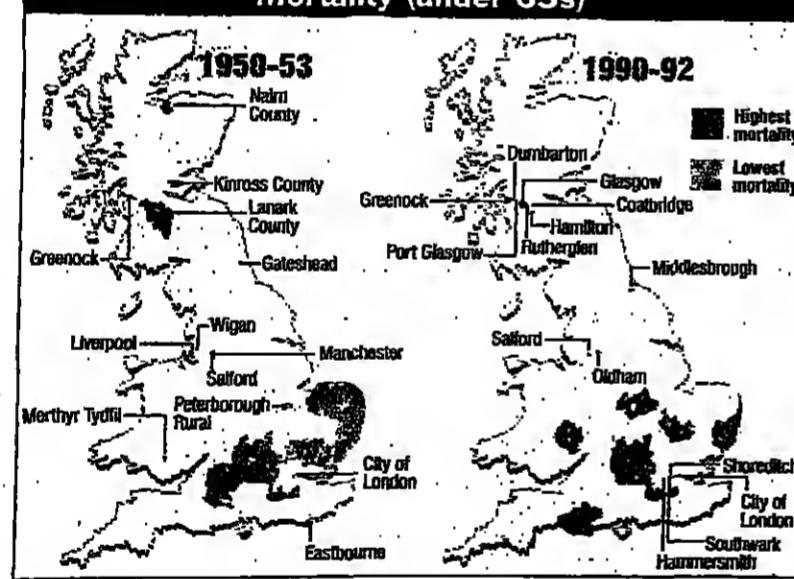
Hot issue: Skaters in Hyde Park. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Sport, has said he wants to resist any new attempts to ban the sport in Royal Parks

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Photo: PA

## Why death in Britain is not a leveller

Mortality (under 65s)



Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

Death is no longer the great equaliser - where you live is a better guide to your chance of dying early than at any time for 50 years, according to a major new study.

People living in areas with the highest mortality rates are now almost twice as likely to die prematurely as those who live where mortality rates are lowest - the greatest degree of inequality since local records were first collated in 1950.

And for children the difference in death rates can be as much as eight times between different areas of the country.

While there have been substantial improvements in survival, the research, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, says that one in twelve of the population now live in areas where premature death rates are 15 per cent above the national average.

For children the difference can be as much as eight times between different areas

In comparison living in rural southern areas such as Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey will boost your chances of achieving a ripe old age.

Amongst younger men, inner London boroughs such as Southwark and Hammersmith also came out badly while younger women, Lambeth and Edinburgh also fared badly.

Using comparable 1951 local authority boundaries the three areas with the highest mortality rates in the 1990s (Oldham, Salford and Greenock) had mortality rates only a fifth higher than the national average in the early 1950s.

Their rates are now rising towards being a third higher than the national rate. "Almost a thousand deaths a year would be avoided were the mortality rates not excessive in just these three places," the report concludes.

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Differences in death rates cannot be blamed on factors such as smoking alone because death rates amongst children show similar divergences, meaning that where a child is born is more important than ever in determining his or her chances of survival.

While nationally infant mortality has seen the most dramatic falls regional divides mimic the adult experience.

An infant girl in Leeds is more than twice as likely to die in the first year of life compared to her peers growing up in a town in Dorset. And eight times as many boys aged between 1 and 4 died in Manchester as compared to rural Gloucestershire between 1990-2.

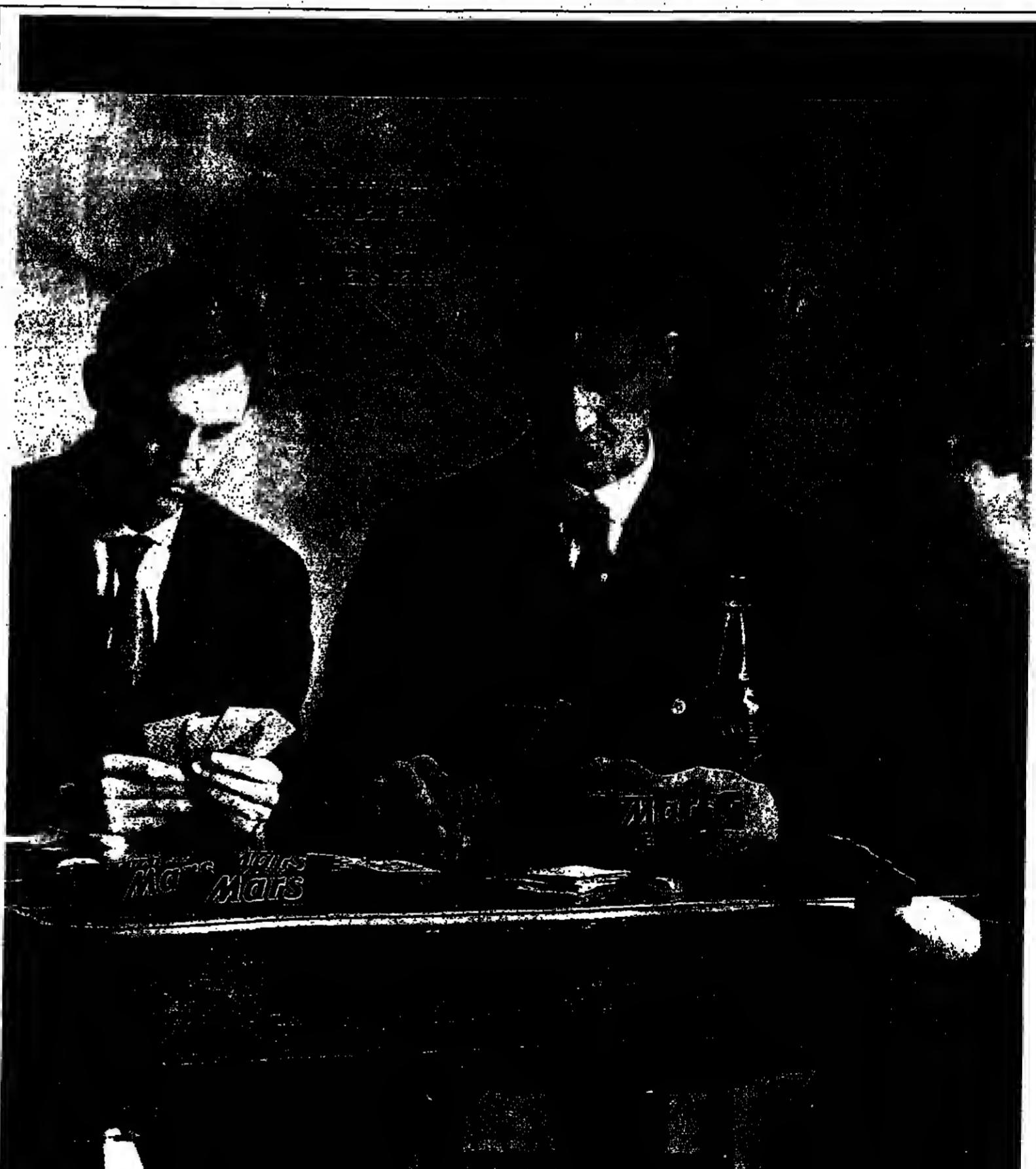
The researchers concluded that there was a strong link between poverty and premature death, with the worst tenth of areas in Britain also showing up among the most socially disadvantaged areas.

"We are becoming less equal in death," said Dr Dorling. "Where people live in the 1990s has become a more reliable guide to their chances of dying before they reach retirement age than at any time since the Second World War."

The trends occurred too quickly - and involved too many deaths - to be explained simply by a changing distribution of wealth, changing causes of death or as a reflection of past health inequalities.

These patterns of varying life chances need to be investigated - and that is likely to prove a harder task than describing them."

Death in Britain: how local mortality rates have changed 1950s to 1990s is available from York Publishing Services, 64 Hallfield Rd, Laverthorpe, York YO3 7XQ price £13.45



In 1938 Mars bars were used as currency in Poland. And we're definitely not bluffing.

60 years of Mars

## news

# Former Pc tells drivers how to dodge law

Ian Burrell

Police are examining a controversial booklet written by a former traffic officer which advises motorists on how to avoid punishment for driving offences.

The booklet claims to have been written by a retired policeman with 22 years' experience and offers readers "the information the police don't want you to have". By exploiting "legal loopholes", drivers can learn how to avoid prosecution for positive breath tests, defeat speed traps and overturn

Safety campaigners angry over booklet that encourages motorists to exploit legal loopholes

parking tickets, the book claims. But police attacked the author's actions as "outrageous" and are examining the publication to see if it breaks the law.

Inspector Chris Hume, of Northamptonshire police, said: "For a retired police officer to see it as fair game to write a book that destroys everything he has been working for during his career is outrageous.

We are about road safety and should not be doing anything to detract from the message that road safety is about saving lives."

The book tries to arouse a sense of injustice in motorists by claiming they are unnecessarily fined in order to generate money for the authorities.

"The motorist is an easy target," it claims. "He's much easier to catch than a burglar, will give less trouble when he is caught and is more likely to have money in his pocket to pay a substantial fine."

Readers are given sample letters to send off to the police and courts in order to "kill" the possibility of incurring penalties.

Drivers are also encouraged to challenge the accuracy of speed detectors and told not to produce their driving licences at the roadside and how to talk their way out of fines. Advice is given on how to drive above the speed limit without the risk of being stopped.

Motorists are also taught to exploit the "poor" knowledge of the law that most special constables have and the "apparent disarray" of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The book has been widely advertised in motoring and men's magazines and has already sold some 14,000 copies since it first went on sale last year. The publisher, John Harrison, said that a large number of police forces had placed orders.

"I guess the police are looking to see if we are committing some sort of offence," he said. "We have had no feedback and I can only assume that they feel there is nothing in the book they can get upset over and take action on." He likened the role of the book to that of a defence solicitor advising a client for a forthcoming court case.

"If you believe that a solicitor encourages people to break the law because he advises people on their rights and obligations then you can say the same thing about this book," he said.

"I dare say that there are some police officers who wish that solicitors don't exist because they make their job more difficult."

Mr Harrison added: "In the same way we are telling people what their rights are and how they should deal with a particular legal situation and that is not going to make [the police's] job easier either."

He admitted that several road safety organisations had written to complain about the booklet.

Mr Harrison said the author had been an existing customer of his company, Streetwise Marketing in Rotherham, and had offered his information as the material for a possible future publication. The writer uses the pseudonym of Martin Thwaite because he is apparently concerned about possible reprisals.

Mr Harrison said: "He just felt there would be an interest in the information. He did it to make money out of it."

## Devolutionists try in vain to tame Tam

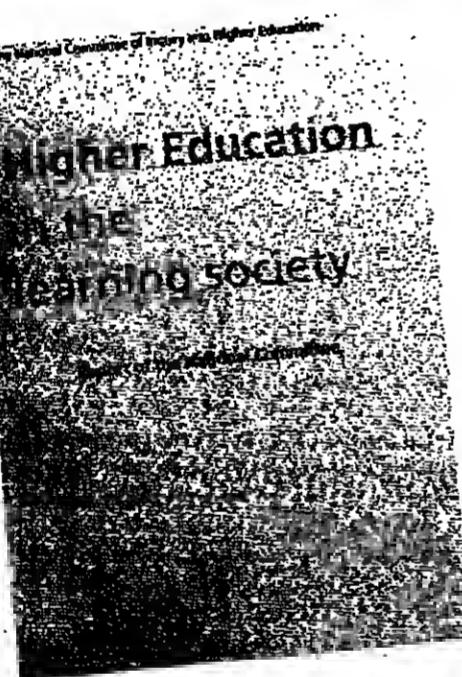
Stephen Goodwin

With more than a touch of *déjà vu*, Tam Dalyell, the independent-minded MP for Linlithgow, is proving a greater hazard to plans for a Scottish Parliament than the Tory-dominated No-Ne campaign.

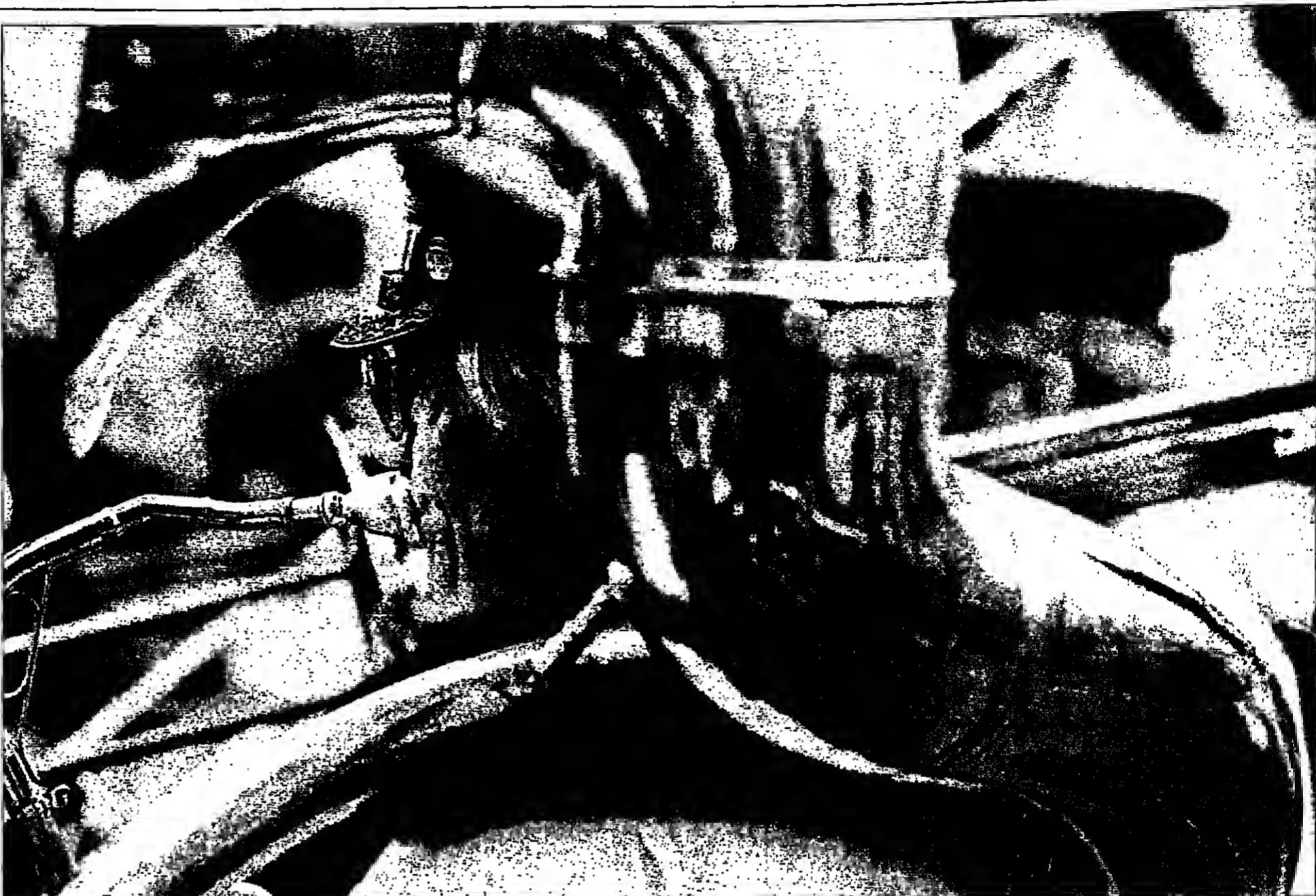
Yesterday he was carpeted by his constituency party for breaking what they believed was a promise not to speak against devolution. While local activists accept he is not going to change his views, they had hoped he could be marginalised.

Questions he asked in the Commons, highlighting the nightmare of different tax rates north and south of the border, revived memories of the role it played in scuppering Labour's 1979 devolution scheme. Then he posed not just the West Lothian Question over Scots MPs continuing to vote on English affairs, but helped set a higher threshold for a Yes than in the event was achieved.

Yesterday, in a room above Glen's public bar in Bathgate, Mr Dalyell defended himself against criticism from members of his party general management committee. Most are pro-home rule and "fed up" with the attention paid to their MP; however no disciplinary action was called for, according to secretary Jim Swan.



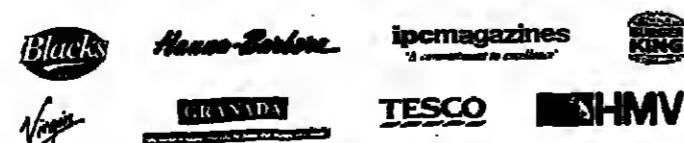
Easy does it: The Adamant New Orleans Parade Band were one of the big attractions at this weekend's Brecon Jazz Festival, which drew 50,000 visitors. Photograph: Rob Stratton



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## Unionist fury at prison hint

Jojo Moyes

Unionist politicians attacked Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of state for Northern Ireland, yesterday, after she appeared to hint at a possible early release of terrorist prisoners, a key item on Sinn Fein's agenda, if the IRA ceasefire holds.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, said it was "ham-handed" of Ms Mowlam to "talk the IRA's language when she has yet to decide that the ceasefire is genuine".

Ms Mowlam floated the idea of early releases in an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*. She said she was not yet ready to discuss demands for prisoners to be released, but added: "as the ceasefire holds, other options become possible".

But a Northern Ireland Office spokesman said the Government was not yet considering the early release of terrorist prisoners. "It's an important issue and one that, as the talks process goes on, I'm sure will be up for discussion, but we're not looking at it now," he said.

The early release and transfer of political prisoners forms a key part of the "introductory document" presented to Ms Mowlam by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, when they met for preliminary talks at Stormont last week.

Sinn Fein wants the immediate return to Ireland of 20 prisoners held in jails in England and then the release of them and others. Early releases were made after the last ceasefire by reintroducing a policy of 50 per cent remission, which had been

### DAILY POEM

Dog

By R Ranganathan

*The Brahmin in the house opposite ours  
Eats late, and tosses  
His leg on the street.  
For that scrap,*

*Two dogs tear each other apart  
In the deserted street. Their howls  
Wake up dogs sleeping elsewhere.*

*In town. Others, in distant streets.  
Follow. Even dogs, in the outskirts,  
Jump into the fray. The noise travels -*

*Beyond the rice-fields and orchards.  
Dogs in the next town take it up.*

*It's an endless chain. However.  
If one were to stop and ask*

*The last dog the cause of it all,  
I wonder what he would have to say.*

This week's Daily Poems all come from the latest issue of the *London Magazine* (£7.95), edited by Alan Ross. Celebrating 30 years of Indian independence, it embraces new fiction, verse, essays, photographs and reviews. Subscriptions to the *London Magazine*, £28.50 a year, from 30 Thurloe Place, London SW7.

abandoned some years before. That level of remission remains.

Ms Mowlam will decide at the end of the month whether the IRA ceasefire is genuine, and whether Sinn Fein will be invited to join the multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland on September 15.

Meanwhile, nationalists marched yesterday to mark the 26th anniversary of internment, the policy of imprisonment of suspects without trial, less than 24 hours after loyalists clashed with police at the end of the annual Apprentice Boys' parade in Londonderry.

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## 8 international

Guam's governor seizes main chance

Richard Lloyd Parry

When a plane full of young families crashes into the side of a hill, as Korean Air flight 801 did last week on the American island of Guam, it is vain to look for a silver lining. But for the Governor of Guam, Carl TC Gutierrez, some good has come out of the tragedy.

With an area smaller than that of the Isle of Man, the governor's domain is not traditionally a launch pad to fame, but in the days after the crash he became a ubiquitous presence on television screens around the world. After the plane crashed last Wednesday, the governor was one of the first on the scene. "After pulling several survivors from the wreckage," reported the *Pacific Daily News*, "Gutierrez came across an 11-year-old Japanese girl ... Matsuda Rika ... Tears welled up in the governor's eyes as he explained how Rika kept asking him to save her mother."

Mrs Matsuda was dead, but Mr Gutierrez invited Rika and her father to stay in his residence. At the media centre near the crash site, his cousin, Franklin Gutierrez, handed out biographies of the governor. The afternoon after the crash, Mr Gutierrez appeared again before the cameras, arm draped around the little girl.

Many islanders feel he has exploited the crash. One firefighter, Jesus C Taitingfong, said his crew were forced to the side of the road by police so that the governor could get to the crash before them.

Tourist brochures depict Guam as an island paradise, but politically it seethes. The last governor but one, Ricardo Bordallo, shot himself following his trial for corruption. The present governor is up for re-election next year. It would be a remarkable politician who declined the photo-opportunities afforded by the plane crash, but Mr Gutierrez appears to have gone too far. "The people know who did the job in the rescue," said Mr Taitingfong.

**Robert Fisk in Damascus**  
on the surprise pact that will link Syria with Iraq and Iran



While Israel strengthens its military alliance with Turkey, President Hafez al-Assad has embarked on a remarkable rapprochement with his old adversary Iraq, re-opening border posts, exchanging trade delegations and closing down the anti-Saddam radio station from which Iraqi dissidents broadcast to Baghdad from Damascus.

Iran, Syria's most important strategic ally in the Muslim world, has approved of President Assad's decision, which may reopen the land route between Damascus and Tehran – at its shortest distance, a mere 300 miles. Already, cars with Syrian registration plates are cir-

trouled – according to Syrian officials – by at least 20,000 Turkish troops. Israeli aircraft are already permitted by Turkey to fly along Syria's northern border and could conceivably fly over the Turkish "security zone" to the north-east of Syria.

In another Middle East war, President Assad could thus face his Israeli enemy on three fronts – to the south, along Golan and in southern Lebanon; to the north, along his frontier with Turkey; and on his north-eastern flank with Iraq. Syria does not even rule out a Turkish military incursion over the Syrian border – ostensibly to search for Kurdish guerrillas – in the event of another Syrian-Israeli war. The re-opening of economic relations with Iraq is thus a response to the Israeli-Turkish alliance, effectively opening a Syrian bridgehead eastwards to Iran.

During his recent visit to Tehran, both President Assad and the new Iranian president, Sayed Mohamed Khatami, agreed the territorial integrity of Iraq must be preserved; they also regarded the Israeli military relationship with Turkey as a threat to the security of Iran as well as Syria.

In time of war – though neither side have said as much – Iran may be able to send military materiel to Syria by land, with the compliance of Baghdad; the shortest land route between the Syrian-Iraqi frontier at Al-Thawef and the Iraqi-Iranian control post at Qasr Shair is only 300 miles.

But President Assad, who is taking care out to break UN sanctions against Iraq, has restrained from renewing political relations with Baghdad. Syria is deeply concerned not only by Israel's military co-operation with Turkey but by Turkey's newly constructed "security zone" inside northern Iraq, an area of occupation con-



between senior officers in the Syrian and Iraqi party commands; in other words, Saddam's regime itself is not receiving any support from Damascus. Syrian officials stress that humanitarian concern underpins their efforts to help the Iraqi population to withstand UN sanctions. Diplomatic contacts were only

renewed last year when a Syrian diplomat in Tehran, Mohamed Khader, was instructed to attend a party given by the Iraqi chargé d'affaires in Tehran, Saïd Nouri Sarmad.

The on 19 May this year, Rateb al-Shellah, the president of the Syrian chambers of commerce federation, led an economic delegation to Baghdad, which reportedly agreed to

signing contracts worth an estimated £9.5m. On 13 June it was the turn of Zubair Yunis, Mr Shalash's Iraqi opposite number, to lead a 37-man delegation to Damascus. Syria promised to provide Iraq with £28,000 worth of medicine – the first Syrian trucks carrying medical supplies crossed the border on 10 July – and reportedly agreed to

restore the telephone lines that had been cut between the two countries for 17 years.

A week later, the portraits of Hafez Assad and Saddam Hussein were raised next to each other at a Syrian medical equipment exhibition in Baghdad. Saddam's picture will also be displayed when the Iraqis are allowed – for the first time in

Monumental change: The deal between President Saddam and his old enemy, President Assad (far left), marks a thaw after 17 years of frozen relations

Main photograph: AP

more than a decade-and-a-half – to open a stand at the Damascus international trade fair later this month. At the same time, Saddam Hussein closed down the anti-Assad Voice of Arab Syria radio station run by Ammar Hafez in Baghdad; a little later, Syria shut the anti-Saddam Voice of Free Iraq radio in Damascus whose broadcasts had already muted their hatred for the Iraqi regime to little more than music and discussion programmes.

According to the Syrians, their own businessmen initiated the new trade with Iraq in an effort to relieve Iraqi poverty. "The Iraqis were discussing their suffering with some Syrian merchants and asked them 'why is Syria punishing Iraq as a people?'" – and that is how we came to send a delegation to Baghdad," Mohamed Salman, the Syrian minister of information, told *The Independent*. "The Dr al-Shellah headed a group of Syrian merchants on a visit to Baghdad ... Following this, Iraq requested the UN to allow it to open a (road) passage to Syria, like the ones with Turkey and Jordan. So the commercial deals will be confined to the rules of the UN security council's decision – food for oil.

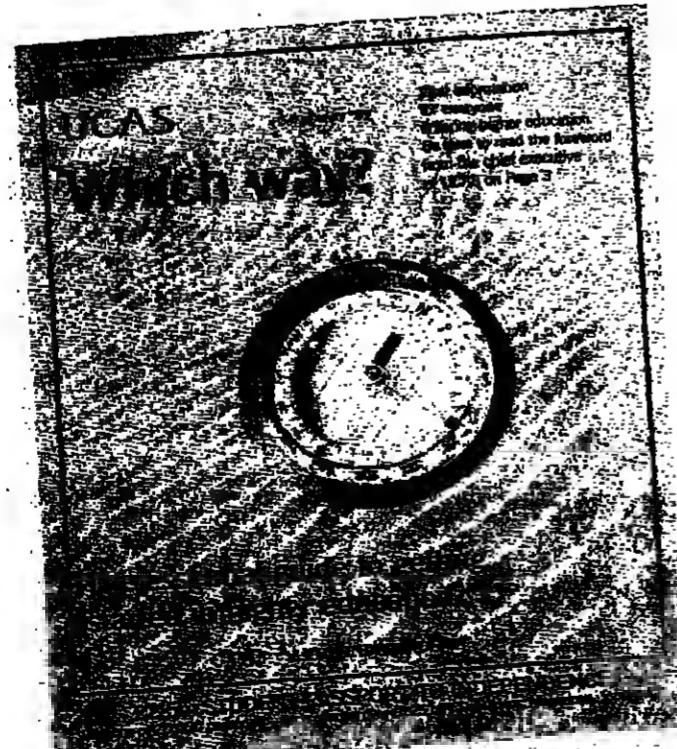
Punishing Iraq was "hurting the Iraqi people more than their government", Mr Salman said. "But there are no political relations between Syria and Iraq. Jordan, Turkey, Iraq – even the (Arab) Gulf states – deal with Iraq on only the economic level. Dealing with Iraq on a popular level is different from doing so on a political level. I assure you that, till now [sic], there is no formal relationship with Iraq," said Mr Salman.

Informal it may be, but a message nonetheless to the United States as well as Israel that Syria is not going to remain inactive in the face of political pressure. President Assad's assertion that Syria will never accept Israel's refusal to hand back the occupied Syrian Golan Heights – "we won't give up a single Golan tree," he told the Iranians last month – has now been augmented by a new relationship in the Arab world which will link Damascus, Baghdad and Tehran.

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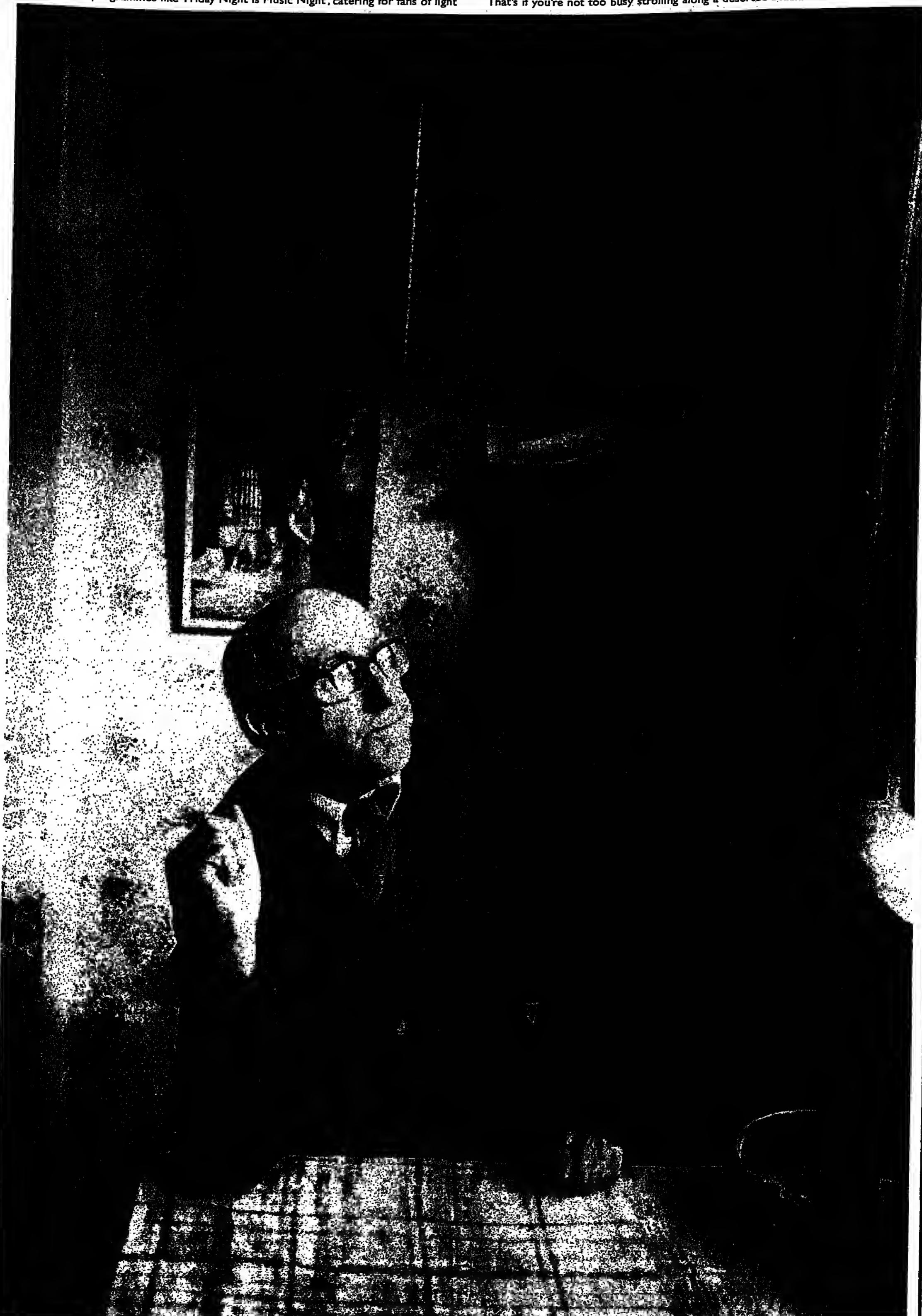
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## international

# Dear Leader keeps N Korea in dark over peace

On the day after the historic preliminary Korean peace talks broke down in New York last Friday, the North Korean regime chose to inform its people that Kim Jong Il, the "Dear Leader" and son of the deceased Kim Il Sung, had visited a military circus. Not a word was uttered about the talks having taken place.

In the surreal world of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, circuses are more important than the gruesome re-

ality of what is happening to a nation sliding into a level of poverty and deprivation seen no where else in Asia.

However, the ruling Worker's Party newspaper, the *Rodong Sinmun* obliquely referred to the talks over the weekend by publishing a commentary under the banner headline "Responsibility Cannot be Avoided", in which it made clear that North Korea was still no a war foot-

ing with the South.

"The military confrontation

between North and South is becoming more tense," said the commentary, placing the blame on the Americans "for inciting the South Korean puppet towards confrontation between North and South".

The paper, the authoritative voice of the regime, demanded that the talks take place solely between North Korea and the United States, as the South was "just the servants of the

Americans". America was told to withdraw its troops.

Although the paper did not say so, these are the reasons why the talks about talks broke down, though another session may commence this Friday.

The very existence of the talks is a breakthrough as there have

been no substantive discussions on a North-South peace agreement since the 1953 armistice agreement which set the division of the country in concrete. The participation of China, alongside the US, is another sign of the serious nature of the discussions. Since the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, China has been North Korea's sole political and economic ally of consequence.

The regime in the North, now seemingly under the control of Kim Jong Il, although he has not inherited his father's titles of

President and party leader, is doing nothing to prepare its population for a change of circumstances. The state controlled media continue to shrink about the "US war-mongers" and warn its people to be prepared for war. All office and factory workers still take part in daily air raid preparation exercises.

A visit last week to the de-militarized zone at Panmunjom,

which separates North and South, was accompanied by constant warnings of the possibility of attack at any time. The army still seems to be receiving weapons and the means to maintain them.

The regime knows it cannot feed its people and needs to open its doors to the international community, but in the paranoid, secretive world of North Korean politics, it cannot bring itself to swallow the promises required to stave off the crisis.

## Images of the gulag that today's Russia wants to forget



Mary Dejevsky meets the artist dissident ignored in his homeland

Washington — There is much here that is reminiscent of the bad old days: a Russian artist, a one-time prisoner of Stalin's Gulag, is in the capital of the United States to present his work — and his case — to a more receptive audience than the one he finds home.

His pictures are exhibited in one of the more elegant halls of the Capitol. He is lionised, albeit in a small and quiet way, by some of the same Cold-warriors who once supported the Soviet dissidents. But this is a story with a distinctly post-Cold War twist.

Nikolai Getman, an animated gentleman in his late seventies, who turns up for our meeting in turquoise shorts and professes his surprised delight in the elegance and greenness of Washington, has no fear for his life.

There is no risk in his meeting a Western journalist, and no one will cancel his citizenship for exhibiting abroad. He is free to return to his home in the central Russian city of Orel whenever he likes.

But German, who had problems aplenty in the Soviet era, finds himself in a typically post-Soviet dilemma. After a brief period in the late Eighties and early Nineties when delving into Russia's inglorious past was all the fashion, he finds himself in what might be called the "Solzhenitsyn trap".

Today's Russia is rushing ahead fast and furiously. The quickest are making money hand over fist; everyone else is working just to stay afloat, and no one has the time or inclination to dwell on what was.

For Getman, this is a bitter disappointment. In 1989, after much soul-searching, he invited two trusted friends around to see some of his pictures. These were not the pictures for which he was known; not the confirmatory pictures he painted after his release from the Siberian labour camp in the Fifties and Sixties, nor the landscapes with birch trees to which he graduated.

They were part of an oeuvre he has now pronounced, at 50 pictures, to be complete. These were not the pictures for which he was known; not the confirmatory pictures he painted after his release from the Siberian labour camp in the Fifties and Sixties, nor the landscapes with birch trees to which he graduated.

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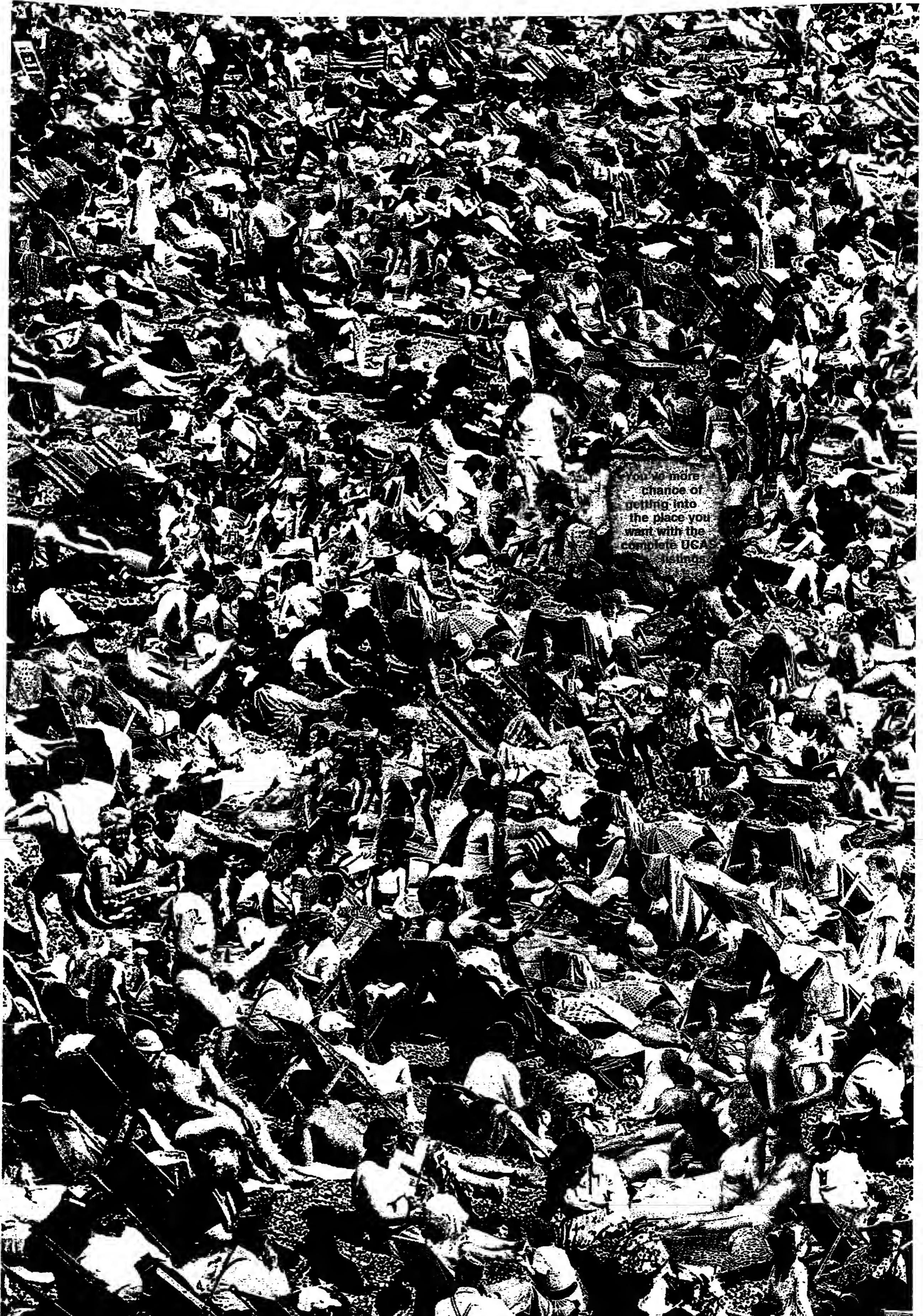
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# The queen of horror, acting out a lifetime's dread

*The Monday Interview*

INGRID PITT

Childhood experiences in a concentration camp gave the German-born actress and vampire par excellence a very real insight into terror. Andrew G Marshall hears her extraordinary life story and about her continuing battle to conquer the demons of her past

**M**y whole life is horror. I'm the Queen of Horror," logrid Pitt is not just describing her career as a vampire in many of the classic Hammer Horror movies; she is referring to a childhood too terrible to be shown on screen. Her family came from Berlin, and when Hitler came to power her father, a scientist, refused to turn his skills to destroying England - a country he had once lived in and loved. As enemies of the Reich, Ingrid's family were hunted, and imprisoned in a series of concentration camps until the end of the war.

"The Russian Army was coming, so our camp, Stutthof in Poland, had to be moved, or liquidated, as they called it. We were marched into the gas chamber and I remember my mother holding me so tight, I don't know if it was luck or destiny, but we survived. I was eight.

"A Jehovah's Witness told me, 'you will survive but tomorrow I will be dead,' and she was right. Why didn't the gas chamber work? We must have been in there for hours, because when we were in there it was dark and when we came out it was dark again - so a whole day must have passed. It was a miracle that they opened the door, because we could have just stayed there, and they could have all gone. Nobody could have opened it from the inside.

"The Russian fighter planes started firing at the rabble of prisoners rather than their guards. It was absurd; I've learnt to fly myself, and I know what you can see on the ground. It was completely horrifying, and everybody dived for the ditches. My mother lay on top of me and I honestly thought she had been shot dead, and started to worry about what I was going to do. Lo and behold, when everybody had gone and it was getting dark, she got up, pulled me up, and walked into the forest. Incredible. Maybe that's why I love forests so much.

"We came across a group of partisans, which was bad because they often killed people who came from the camps. It was always unmistakable that you came from the camps. Yet again my mother was brave, and persuaded them to help us. I remember this young boy so well; he had a gun and it was almost as big as he was, and along with him was this older man. They led us to their camp. We didn't know if we would survive or not because they all talked in all kinds of foreign languages, and my mother only understood hints here and there."

The partisans decided to let Ingrid and her mother stay. Looking back, her childhood seems to have begun in the forest. An older boy became her friend and protector, and they explored the forest together. Her mother taught her to read and write, using little pieces of chalk to write on a wooden table.

"One day, I remember, we found a British plane that had been shot down near our camp. Only one of the crew had survived. The partisans helped him back to the camp because he had broken his legs. He taught me to sing 'Land of Hope and Glory', and that is when my passion for the round circle with the dot in the middle began. When I see the RAF emblem I feel safe. We also got this radio out of the plane and made it work, although only for a little while; suddenly a great voice talking in English about the Huu boomed out. My mother spoke very good English and told the partisans that the voice belonged to Churchill, that the front was



Escape from the nightmare: left, Ingrid Pitt, today, in Richmond Park, and, above, in 'The Vampire Lovers', 1970

Main photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

"After finishing that film, I sat in the London Hilton thinking about having to leave England. It was early morning, and I had to pack my suitcase to go to the airport. I looked down from my window at the red houses, the black cabs and the Horse Guards riding into Hyde Park, and I sat there weeping, tears falling down my face, and then came the boog, boog of Big Ben. I knew I could never leave England. I had an agent in America who had all sorts of jobs lined up for me but I didn't go. Could I get a job here? Could I get an agent? Awful, but I didn't care. I was happy here, and I was going to stay in the land of Spittires and cricket. I'm a stupid and obstinate woman."

"It's amazing how even a small event from your past can influence your whole future. It was wonderful for my child to grow up here, and if I'd left I'd never have met my husband. I would have had almost an empty life, because a life without love is an empty life, career or no career."

**T**here were only two choices for movies in the Seventies in England: pornography and horror. "I didn't want to take my clothes off, so I became a vampire. The scripts were very good, and they've now become cult pictures. It is divine, because people just love them; it reconfirms me and it keeps me alive for ever - like the vampires I play. When I meet people they do not recoil in horror about how I've aged; quite the opposite: they say wonderful things, and I let them lie to me as much as they like. They see a 30-year-old film and somehow they see me as I was then. So loving and kind. I've never met a weird horror movie fan."

When acting slowed up, Ingrid Pitt turned to writing, and has published several books, including *Katarina*, which is based on her childhood experiences. She is currently working on *Ingrid Pitt's Bedside Companion for Vampire Lovers*, and a movie that she wrote has just gone into production.

The second chapter of her life has definitely been a triumph over the first, but could she be said ever to have recovered from such nightmares? The modern answer would be intensive counselling to confront the past, but after the Second World War people just tried to forget. Ingrid has never met another concentration camp victim, and she seldom talks about the past - this is the first time she has done so to a newspaper journalist - because remembering is just too painful.

Although she would never consider undergoing counselling, she has developed her own strategy that resembles the latest vogue, cognitive therapy, which teaches how to replace painful thoughts with positive ones.

"My little great-niece Lola, whom I look after three days a week, thinks that all planes are Spittires because I told her about them. She can't tell yet that a 747 is not like a Spittire. I take her into the forest and teach her about trees, sunshine and flowers. When I see Lola walking with my husband, his big fingers holding her little hands, it is so funny. For every one step he takes, she takes three. When she sits on his lap it's like a time-warp - it could be my father and me. Somebody at her school picnic wanted to tear flowers off the stalks. 'No, you can't do that, they will die,' she cried. That's me, you know."

"My bedroom has a massive window with trees all around. When I put Lola down for her afternoon nap, she likes to lie on the bed and look at those trees. I always say: 'Look at them waving; they are all whispering, so don't keep you from sleeping. They're saying, "Hi Lola, we'll stand here, and when you wake up we'll tell you a story." So I have to make up a story for the trees. There's a small birch wood in Richmond Park, close to where I live; it reminds me of that forest in Poland. I often go there and feel the peace."

Deborah Ross is on holiday

## Embarrass your children, and have a nice day

**I**t is one of the rules of life that parents are embarrassing to their children. There are a few years where this is not so: no baby has sued its mother for the trauma of being breast-fed in a public place - yet. But by the age of five children can clock the fact that everyone else's mother does not drive around in her nightgown, and other fathers do not dance the waltz at the drop of a drumbeat. So no sign of originality from a parent is cause for much rolling of the eyes and shrugging of the shoulders.

Sometimes, however, merely embarrassing parental behaviour can mutate into something truly excruciating. It can be anything. In my father's case it was a dreadful bobble hat that he took to wearing in public so often that I finally had to take matters into my own hands.

In my own case the problem (as my children see it at least) is that I believe in customer service. Not only do I believe in it, but sometimes I actually request it. I do this for obvious reasons, but also so that the children can learn how to do it. After

all, I announce - not for the first time - no one ever seemed to feel shy about demanding that I serve them with a smile when I was a waitress.

The topic of my career as a waitress at the Palm Cafe in a small town on America's West Coast is one that I particularly want to as we sit in some corner of a restaurant waiting for someone - anyone! - to notice our existence. "I would have been fired for this," I note, perhaps a bit loudly. I paint a picture of the Palm: there was a swordfish on the wall, home-made lemon meringue pie in the cooler and a chef who was always just one order away from exploding. My job was to run around like a manic trying to please customers who made Victor Meldrew look cuddly. (I skip over my phase of pouring coffee over the most irritating ones. Why wreck a good moral tale?)

My eyes get a little misty, and it's hard to tell when exactly the children's glaze over. I usually end with a rousing explanation of how the Eastern Bloc's inability to understand good service was a contributing factor in the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The children unglaze the moment I say it is time to talk to the manager. They are terrified of the very idea. After all, they have grown up in England and as such have adopted the custom of complaining privately about bad service, only to

smother with "thank you" the person who eventually arrives. I think this is very strange indeed, and refuse to adapt. Therefore the children have to watch me like a hawk. If I show any sign of wanting something embarrassing - such as adjoining seats on an airline, a refund for wonky curtains, or a menu by 2pm - they beg me not to make a fuss. Sometimes they actually flee. I react in much the same way as my father did with his bobble hat - I carry on.

Not that it is easy. Recently I entered an estate agent's and found a man staring at his computer screen. I stood; he stared at his screen. He typed a few words and sat back to mull them. I stood. Finally, he looked up. "Can I help you?" he asked. "You already have," I announced, "because I am doing a survey of how long it takes for people like you to acknowledge that a human being may be in front of them." He stared at me and, for a moment, I felt as if I were the one who was crazy.

All of this comes to mind because it is the time of year to return to the US West Coast for a visit.

The Palm Cafe is no more - engulfed by the Westward Ho! bar - and it is also clear that the standard of service in general has slipped of late. Down-sizing has taken its toll, and sometimes the cracks do not so much show, as gape.

This being so, was no real surprise when Jessica at the Holiday Inn declared to me that she had no record of my booking a non-smoking room. "Only smoking ones left," she said. I explained that I had no desire to sleep in an ashtray. Much to my amazement, Jessica loved this comment and spent the next 20 minutes phoning round trying to find another room. "You seem very calm," I said as another phone call got stuck on a pre-recorded loop. "Well, I could get real upset if you wanted me to," she said. I laughed, and suddenly realised that the children were out with me and so there was no need to take it any further.

I merrily told Jessica that the ashtray would suit me just fine and then capped it off with a "Thank you so much!" The children would have been proud.



Ann Treneman

## the leader page

# In death we are divided. So much for progress

Before the First World War death rates were a powerful if crude indicator of social conditions, especially in Britain's cities. But today? For the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to worry about mortality tables at the end of the 1990s seems rather eccentric. The nation's vital signs are good. National income continues to grow and the general level of public health to rise. The average man is now a third less likely to die in any given year than in 1950, the average woman a quarter less likely. What better sign of improvement all round than more life itself?

But the latest Rowntree study has looked underneath the aggregates, at death in actual places. It does not seek to deny the general improvement – it couldn't. What it is after is difference. It is not just that there are places where babies are more likely to die than in others, and that in those same places the old, too, are more likely to die younger. What the study finds is that the places where life expectancy is significantly lower than average are the same as they were a generation ago, and probably the same as when the Rowntree family began its inquiries in the Edwardian era. The places at the head of the list are well known: Glasgow, Hackney, Southwark, Manchester, Tower Hamlets. It also includes Rochdale, Oldham, Gateshead and Stirling. They are all different but have in common a greater likelihood that their residents die prematurely.

And the gap between good and bad places seems in recent years to have increased. To report that life in Buckinghamshire and Surrey is more benign than in Greenock or Salford is to note an obvious and seemingly permanent fact of our social geography. But to discover that life, relatively speaking, is getting no better in the latter defies the expectation that a modern society necessarily becomes more homogeneous, and that in the long haul there is a process of convergence.

Today's study by Daniel Doring at Bristol University is another blow to that confidence. It is an adjunct of Rowntree's recent big study of income difference, and it says loud, clear and incontrovertibly that modern Britain shows disturbing signs of growing inequality. Disturbing, that is, because growing inequality does nothing identifiable for economic growth while it stands as a proxy measure of growth in criminality and widespread educational and social underperformance.

We die unequally. The Rowntree study avoids emotive language. It adjusts death rates for ages, it's talk of "excess deaths" simply records a statistical phenomenon, that more deaths occur in the bad areas than national averages would predict. But at its heart there is a moral point: it is unfair that a resident of Glasgow is a third more likely to die prematurely than a resident of Bristol. It is even worse that Glaswegian adults had

higher mortality rate in the early 1990s than Bristol adults did in the early 1950s. So much for progress.

The point is not that some abstract notion of equality. They certainly do not hinge on the idea that all areas should or can be the same in terms of the life chances they offer residents. They are worrying because they expose social waste. The figures show the squandering of human lives in a society whose real resource – only resource – is its people. They also expose grave failings in public policies, notably for health, meant to guarantee reasonable equality across the country.

Evidence showing why mortality rates are so skewed is at hand. High death rates are closely associated with position in the league tables for illness, lack of material resources, unemployment. People with jobs tend to live longer. It may not be a very original conclusion but it is inescapable – the more jobs, the more people are encouraged to take those jobs, the healthier everyone will be. These figures for mortality ought to be read and remembered by those economists, City brokers and bankers who are wont to talk about unemployment as a price worth paying. They are also required reading for poli-

cy-makers, especially those, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, confronted with demands for more health spending. It's not GPs and hospital appointments that keep people alive (on the average!) but people's capacity to look after themselves on the basis of a reasonable, work-derived income. Chancellor Gordon Brown might say that his welfare-to-work programme is a start, a way of breaking inter-generational patterns of poverty and disease. But it will need to recognise how certain communities are going to need more than sticks and carrots to get people into jobs: they are going to need real employment opportunities within reasonable travelling time.

It would be easy to say, on the basis of the deterioration in mortality in certain areas over the past decade and a half, that all this is a Tory responsibility. That is a charge for the busting, where argument would also have to recognise that unemployment is continuing to fall, even in those areas worst hit by cuts and closures in the last two recessions. That means, among other things, fewer children growing up in households where nobody works for their living – itself a remarkably powerful predictor of social malaise present and problems to come, the indicator of when we die.

What Labour needs to focus on, as it talks bravely of regional development agencies, is how within a single region

there can be great disparities in mortality rates and economic success between nearby communities. Take the North-west, and the different fates of next-door St Helens and Liverpool. The Rowntree data suggest place does matter. Individual communities appear to have specific characteristics which may help explain their fates. This means there will have to be fierce targeting of spending on health, education, training and jobs.

## The sad truth about creativity

Is there an inverse relationship between happiness and creativity? The symphonies of Sibelius were reported yesterday to be what they are because of his tendency to depression. On a different cultural level is the example of Enid Blyton. The child of an unhappy marriage, who in her turn had problems with motherhood, she felt compelled to write fiction about happy children. Now here comes her daughter, telling how Blyton was a driven woman who churned out huge quantities of words to satisfy publishers. But perhaps her characters benefited as a result. Noddy's ceaseless quest to set things right in Toytown; the Five's breathless pursuit of adventure may spring from their creator's stressed state.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How to cool the consumer boom

Sir: In defence of a "one-club" approach to economic policy ("Will the doomsday please look at the figures", 8 August), you cite Gavyn Davies' argument that, apart from the political differences, any increase in taxes to subdue the current consumer boom would need to have been implausibly large and would have been too slow to take effect.

This is certainly correct for income taxes. However, variations in VAT, especially on big ticket items, encourage people to reallocate their expenditure towards times when VAT rates are low; these induced effects on the volume of spending can be large and, furthermore, impinge on spending immediately. Indeed, the Chancellor could have gone so far as to announce a cut in future VAT rates, and it would have had the effect of cooling consumer spending today.

Furthermore, your fashionable (but erroneous) dismissal of the use of fiscal policy to moderate spending in the economy on the grounds that the lags are long and variable, ignores the fact that although interest rates are easily changed, their ultimate impact on the economy is at least as uncertain in magnitude, and the lags are at least as long and variable.

In addition, increases in interest rates empirically have rather little effect on consumer spending – for every mortgage holder made worse off by Thursday's interest rate increase, there is a depositor like me who is today rejoicing in their increased interest income. Rather, the main effect is to depress companies' investment spending by raising the cost of capital, and to reduce net exports by pushing up the pound.

As a result of decisions by this, and more especially the last, government, the Bank of England is now in the unenviable position of having to try to moderate the inflationary effects of a possibly temporary boom in consumer spending, knowing that it will have to reverse its policy stance as the adverse effects of the very tight public spending plans and the high current levels of sterling begin to kick in over the next year or two.

Getting the timing on this right will be no easy matter, but it is not made easier by governments continuing to put all their eggs in one basket.

Professor CHARLES BEAN  
London School of Economics and  
Political Science  
London WC2

Sir: Thanks to the latest interest rate rise ("The fourth mortgage rise under Labour", 3 August), our mortgage repayment will now be £100 per month higher, 100 days after I voted for and celebrated a Labour victory.

I'm not really complaining because I'm sure it is a price worth paying for a better government and a less overheated economy, but to have the same effect on my net disposable monthly income, the Chancellor would have had to increase income tax by about 3p in the pound. Had he done so, the money raised could have gone on education, education, or education, or at least on something other than making foreign holidays cheaper and British exports more expensive.

JOHN DAVIES  
London SE24



### Self-sustaining Army snobbery

Sir: It is silly to deny that social élitism exists in the Army ("Major suspended after class charge", 8 August). Between the Household Division, the Cavalry and the rest of the Army the distinction is very class-orientated.

Selection for such regiments is largely based on schools attended, social status and regimental antecedents. Potential candidates are not encouraged from state schools. State school entrants are limited in their choice of regiment (although the range of choice is widening – hence the increasing number of state-educated officers).

It should not therefore come as a surprise that promotion for those restricted to the less socially élite regime tends to be limited by function, which makes it much more difficult to reach the higher echelons of command. Not that exceptional individuals cannot progress, but the hierarchy tends to be self-perpetuating and that makes promotion more difficult for those who do not belong to, or ape, the conventional image. This is compounded in the Army because the reporting and promotion system is closed to the individuals concerned, and is therefore without any chance of redress.

In such an environment it is unlikely that such a thorny problem as self-sustaining snobbery within the Army is ever going to be addressed. That is, unless some foolish individual should raise the subject in public.

PHILIP WILKINSON  
Coombe, Wiltshire

Sir: I fully endorse the views expressed by Major Eric Joyce regarding the Army's antiquated and "classist" commissioning policy. Why else was I required to disclose whether I was a day pupil or boarder at school, list the occupations of my family and describe my "military connections" during a recent Army Commissioning Board?

I am sure that many young people, like myself, have no wish to join an organisation that appears content to portray itself as being discriminatory and outdated. Suspending Major Joyce for speaking out against the Army will only serve to confirm such views amongst the public. Is it any wonder that the Army is currently experiencing a recruitment crisis?

PETER G WOOD  
Rowton, Cheshire

### Children need our attention

Sir: When my children were growing up the school holidays were pure joy. No rushing about first thing in the morning, and then only three or four hours at the end of the day to spend together, but all day long in which to explore and discover the world around us together.

We talked and listened to each other, properly communicated, and learnt a lot from each other and about each other. I watched television programmes with them,

took them to the cinema, theatres, museums, parks, and on walks, played tennis, swam, just sat around with them, read, cooked, even cleaned the house with them, and in this way helped shape their ideas and morals, their values, prejudices, likes and dislikes. I gained much by sharing their interests, fads, musical tastes, and so on, and a new world opened up for me.

No wonder the young Appleyards love going to their teacher grandmother, to be stimulated and invigorated ("Honey, I didn't kill the kids today", 7 August). No doubt she shows real interest in them as individuals. Modern parents are sending a very dangerous message to our young people: you are of no interest to me, not important enough to warrant my attention. No wonder our youngsters turn to drugs, anorexia, delinquency and suffer more stress. They are screaming out to be noticed and the adult world is ignoring them.

ARIELLA LISTER  
Hatch End  
Middlesex

Sir: Diana Appleyard writes a paean to the joys of organising every minute of her children's summer holiday until there is no holiday left. What happened to children moolching, passing time, lazy days? Gone in a sea of lessons and classes and activities – school in disguise.

ADRIAN WESTON  
Brighton  
East Sussex

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

### Death Railway no longer runs

Sir: I hesitate to take issue with the marvellous Thomas Cutcliffe, but my favourite read of the day ("Television", 6 August) was disturbed by his contention that the Death Railway in Burma still runs – "it may not have been worth dying for, but it has a continuing use".

The line was torn up many years ago, and what I saw earlier this year were haunting gaps in the jungle where the line had been hacked, chasms where bridges had hung.

Worse, there is a plan to rebuild

part of the line at least – by using

Japanese investment money to re-create the railway as a tourist trap.

The next-of-kin of British soldiers

who died there, some of whom were

my companions on this trip, were

predictably anguished and

outraged. Especially as at the line at

the river Kwai they saw only a

monument applauding this "feat of

Japanese engineering" – the deaths

of tens of thousands get no mention.

B.F.JAMES

London E1

powers to regulate the behaviour of errant drink companies.

Its code of practice is purely voluntary and its so-called "sweeping powers" amount to little more than asking retailers not to stock products which offend against the code. If manufacturers and retailers choose to ignore these appeals to their better natures, they are at liberty to flout the Portman Group's code at will and without fear of facing penalties.

The only realistic way to get to grips with alcopops and loosen the hold they have gained amongst under-age drinkers is for the Government to introduce a statutory code of practice, an independent body which has real teeth and sanctions founded firmly in law.

MARY-ANN MCKIBBIN  
Assistant Director, Alcohol Concern  
London SE1

### Getting to grips with alcopops

Sir: The Portman Group – which is financed by the seven largest drink companies in Britain – cannot "crack down on under-age drinking and alcopops" ("Brewers take a fresh look at the alcopops market", 8 August) because it simply has no

### Black actor could play Othello

Sir: The 400-year-old tradition of disguising a white actor for the role of Othello stemmed from the fact that black people were not given the same rights as white people ("Can it be wrong to 'black up' for Othello?", 7 August). A black person would not have been able to play the role due to his position in society and, in later years, due to a prejudiced theatre and film industry.

As David Lister notes "Equity has a disproportionate number of unemployed black actors on its books". If he requires a "powerful argument" against a white actor taking on the role, he should look to the many black actors who could play the part, but are being denied the opportunity.

SYREETA BROWN  
Willington, Surrey

Sir: David Lister is, perhaps, unaware of the theory that "Othello the Moor" was one of Shakespeare's howlers. According to this theory the play *Othello* was modelled on the life of a Venetian merchant called Othello Moro, who was white and about whom records exist.

Shakespeare, so the theory goes, did not speak Italian and assumed that the name "Moro" meant that Othello was a Moor. If this had been the case, he might perhaps have been called "Othello il Moro". It is the difference between "John Black" and "John the Black".

If this theory is correct, then the answer to Mr Lister's question is "yes, it is wrong to black up for Othello" and it is even more wrong, from the historical point of view, to get a black man to play the part.

CROFTON-SLEIGH  
Rotherfield, East Sussex

Sir: David Lister asks of the role of Othello, "why is a white man singing the role permissible, but acting it beyond the pale?" The answer could lie in the fact that the composer of *Othello*, Giuseppe Verdi, wrote the part for a tenor voice rather than a bass or baritone. Few, if any, of today's black opera singers possess a tenor voice.

The role requires great stamina, acting ability and an outstanding tenor voice. Few who have seen Plácido Domingo perform this role would doubt that he possesses these qualities in abundance. Perhaps this is why no one ever criticises him.

LINDA BENNETT  
Tarporley, Cheshire

### Those who profit from poverty

Sir: On behalf of the Queen ("Amritsar massacre dogs Queen's India visit", 4 August), I think we should demand apologies from the following:

1) The Mayor of Rome for the invasion by Roman forces of these islands and their subsequent colonisation for some 400 years.

2) The King of Denmark (and possibly the King of Norway also) for the Viking raids on these coasts during the sixth, seventh and eighth centuries.

3) The regional government of Normandy for the invasion in 1066.

4) The King of Spain for his country's attempted invasion of Great Britain in 1584.

GRANT GREEN  
Saffron Walden, Essex

Philippe de Gaulle  
France

## A match made in Mecca – we hope

Dodi Fayed is one of 'us' and he has got hold of the most famous and feted of all of 'them', writes Fuad Nahdi

The Princess of Wales's continuing fascination with Muslim men invokes conflicting emotions within the British Muslim community. On the one hand, there is apprehension that the dashing Dodi Fayed will do the dirty on Di and leave all Islam and Muslims at the mercy of Britain's oft-so-forgiving public opinion. On the other is an inflated sense of pride: you might hate and abuse us on the high streets and in alleyways, but our boys are cruising off with your biggest catches on the high seas.

Dodi Fayed might be the darling of London society, but prior to his flirtation with Diana, Princess of Wales, the 36-year-old with more money than a beard was not exactly a household name among members of the Bradford Council of Mosques. But with a father named Mohammed, he is one of "us" and he has got the most famous and feted of "them".

A Dodi-Diana union would revolutionise British society. Culture, couture and the British sense of citizenship would change forever. Imran Khan's marriage to Jemima Goldsmith introduced the *shahwar kameez* to both the high class and the high street. Will Diana Fayed (still the Princess of Wales and of *Fashio*) be responsible for introducing *fuol muddamas* and the *galabiyyah* to our food and fashion outlets?

On a more serious note, what is it that attracts the *creme de la creme* of Western womanhood to Muslim man? Is it simply realising the fantasy of the tall, dark, handsome stranger (as per "classic" fiction recommended at most finishing schools)? Of course, Dodi might not exactly fit the bill, but on one's perfect. It does, however, help to have a father who has some change to spare.

Could it be that Muslim man of both the born-again (Imran Khan) and playboy (Dodi) variety offers something that his Occidental counterpart just doesn't have? If anything, Diana and Jemima

### • What is it that attracts the cream of Western womanhood to Muslim man? •

are the epitome of the free spirit; women able to determine the prospects and direction of their lives. Is the message in their action, then, that New Man is unequal to the demands of New Woman?

If so, what are the features that unite Dr Hasnat Khan (the Pakistani surgeon said to be a friend of Diana's), Dodi Fayed and Imran Khan? One is that behind their mesmerising Westernised facades are traditional and opinionated males of the old stock. Strong-willed, family-centred and intrinsically chauvinistic, they are a delicate blend of the excesses of the East and the West. They afford a "respect" towards the object of their desires no longer available in the Europeanised male.

It has been pointed out that, by marrying Dodi Fayed, Diana would, as in the case of Jackie Onassis, be able to sustain the privileged lifestyle to which she has become accustomed. As for Dodi marrying the Princess of Wales, she would be the most valuable trophy to bring home to his billionaire father. Di would elevate the Al Fayed's from being just another mega-rich Arab family to being the family access to the corridors of power and influence in the West is appreciated by both oil and jute sellers. After all, who needs a British passport if the future King of England is your step-grandson?

Prince Charles is said to have expressed his best wishes over the Dodi-Diana union. This is hardly surprising, for the Prince of Wales is familiar with both Islam and his family's close association with the faith over the centuries. Genealogists would tell you that there is a lot of *halal* blood flowing in the veins of the Royal Family. Queen Victoria's obsession with her "manush", Abdul Karim, reached such a point that King Edward VII ordered all papers related to the Queen's advisor to be burned.

Even at this moment, the *galabiyyah*-clad Prince of Wales may well be looking back with regret at the opportunities Islam could have offered him. Assuming that he wanted both to remain married to the mother of his children and to ensure that he shared the rest of his life with Camilla Parker Bowles, the best option for him would have been polygamy, which Islam allows. After all, in the Islamic world, having several wives is considered an asset not a hindrance to kingship.

Finally, the question is: who is next? For they say good things happen in threes. Who knows, Fay Weldon, that scourge of Islam over *The Satanic Verses*, could be the next to succumb to the charms of Muslim man.

The writer is editor of *Q-News*, the Muslim magazine.



## Why university is a journey too far

by David Walker

The A-level results out on Thursday signal the beginning of Britain's great teenage transubstantiation. Education's rite of passage is what it literally is – the passage of parental cars and vans up and down the motorways, a welter of trunks, new crockery, duvet covers, and instructions on how to use a washing machine.

But for what? No official report, at least one written during the past 35 years, says that studying away from home is sufficiently beneficial to justify its huge cost to the nation. No closet eugenicist says that translating hundreds of Londoners to Sheffield to have sex there for three years (not with Sheffielders, since only 5 per cent of Sheffield students come from the city) does anything for the gene pool.

Asian restaurateurs and provincial suppliers of little white pills love it. But what public purposes are served by this annual migration of Middle England's youth? You may say that the migration bonds north and south. Within six weeks, it is true that thousands of young southerners will be migrating north. Some will join that huge student colony – 60,000 strong – in Manchester. Others will contribute towards the millions in uncoordinated regional aid that higher education pays Yorkshire and Humberside. And the student train moves the other way, too, claiming the extra grants and loans available to London students, swelling the capital's disproportionate share of university revenues.

Should 18-year-olds pitch out of the parental nest and go and live by themselves? That's a private matter. What is public is whether the state should subsidise the expensive business of self-discovery for a fraction of the 18-year-old cohort. Once upon a time (the early Sixties, in fact) a government committee said campuses and cloisters were places where you acquired manners and social confidence, even (whisper it, with the student revolution about to begin) a moral sense.

That answer was couched in terms of a university system to which only the offspring of the middle classes and a smattering of able working-class youth were admitted.

Modern mass universities have given up the ghost of moral betterment. Though meagre, government student support pays enough for late-teenagers to leave home to live, in their first year, in communal blocks, then get big city flats while enjoying the "student experience". This consists of a mixture of Es, beer, sex, lectures, and minimal intellectual engagement, plus, for those with less well-off parents, part-time jobs. Of course

some students do voluntary work in poor neighbourhoods; of course not all students are drug-ingesting slugs. The question is not whether the experience is edifying, but whether the taxpayer should support it as well as the cost of teaching. Officialdom, including the Dearing Committee, has ducked the issue.

Somes colleges, especially the former polytechnics, never had national catchments. Take the University of East London (formerly the North East London Polytechnic), four out of every five of whose students come from Greater London or the Home Counties area. Of them, three-quarters come from the neighbourhood. Ilford Asian families are very keen to see their daughter return home every night.

Are nine-to-five students going to do any worse? (This is smugly insinuated by the campus universities.) A Leeds University professor tells me: "Students who live at home don't integrate; it limits the range of experience they are subjected to; they are not as rounded as students." So, I ask, does that make them worse physicists or historians?

The evidence from Glasgow says: of course not. Some 71 per cent of the University of Glasgow's undergraduates are Scots and nearly half of them come from greater Glasgow. Its academic averages do not seem to suffer as a result. Ditto Strathclyde, where the home-town component even greater.

They have much greater opportunities for sharing discourse, creating a kind of culture" – this from the registrar of the University of York, with ducks quacking in the background on his architect-designed campus. That kind of vague ambition was certainly in the minds of the founders of the Shakespearean seven (Sussex, Warwick, Kent etc) – believing that life among Basil Spence buildings would somehow make better scholars. It is a load of nonsense – as generations of urban academics have proved. Indeed, say the great "civic" universities of the

North and Midlands, a reason for 18-year-olds to leave home is that they get the chance to experience the grit – sorry, the varied urban scene – in Liverpool and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Parents, send your children to Bradford for (official spokesperson) "a vibrant, multicultural city".

Manchester University (one of the several institutions that make up a multi-million-pound higher education industry in the North-west) deliberately pitches its club and music scene to southerners. Some 2,700 of Manchester's undergraduates come from the South-east and there is said to be a "huge retention" of them on graduation, especially in the local leisure industry. That is fine, but should it be the object of public policy to invigorate the indie music scene in Ardwick?

A couple of years ago the Higher Education Funding Council measured grants and fees per head of population and found that London ended up with more than twice the amount of university money flowing to the South-west (few universities) or even the West Midlands. Another region that does conspicuously well is Yorkshire and Humberside – all those callow southerners who find themselves contemplating the flow of the Humber on the docksides at Hull.

Of course, individuals may benefit by leaving home to study – where would the modern British novel be without that trope? But behind the decision to wave Mum and Dad goodbye lies an unwaranted subsidy. The Government's post-Dearing proposals for student finance are a step in the right direction. Everyone will have to borrow, so focusing available money on the education rather than the lifestyle.

Yes, university graduates are in general more tolerant, more liberal, but surely that has to do with the fact of study, not with the possibility of rubbing shoulders with southerners. Besides, university entrance is still heavily conditioned by social origin. Unfashionable though the word now is, it is class that determines who goes where to study what. Sending the daughters of the well-off of Kent to spend three years in a flat in Headington mixing with students from a similar background does little to aerate British society. Nor does sending them to the superior boarding-school experience offered, say, at Exeter or Durham.

And if the experience did count: wouldn't the benefit be so much greater for 18-year-olds from Page Moss in Knowsley, or Bransholme estate in Hull? Break them out of their culture and dead expectations by giving them the chance to live away from home. That really would give the 18-year-old transmigration some poise.

## the commentators

### Me, marriage! Tell that to the Tamagotchi

I'm completely confused. The family is still at the heart of the British lifestyle according to the Office for National Statistics. What on earth is the twenty-something woman to make of this?

Over the past few years I've naturally assumed I'm going to spend the rest of my life on my own, divorced or gay, not having children, or being a single mother, or terms with all my natural relatives. That's what all the surveys show.

But now, according to the latest one from the ONS, if I get married I've got a one in two chance of making it to my silver wedding anniversary.

Obviously that trendsetter herself, Diana, Princess of Wales, has spotted this and has allowed herself to be caught canoodling with a new beau. So I've been quite happy destined to live a dysfunctional life for ever. I knew that feminism hadn't delivered it all, but I still thought I'd escape the moans of, "Are we nearly there yet?" three minutes after setting off on family holidays and endless squabbles over which sibling is the favourite.

It sounded like the answer. No Man United, no 12 pints of lager nights, no fights over the remote control, no emotional torture.

"Who would you like?" asked Angela.

"Dodi Fayed."

"Who would like sensibly? I've got either Self-Made Man or Millionaire Max."

"Oh well, they sound much more realistic than Dodi Fayed, don't they?" I said. "Let's face it, my mother will only fall for this one if I say I'm going out with Dipsomaniac David or Commitment Phobic Chris. What are they like?"

"Stan is a retired importer/exporter who drives a silver Cadillac and wears boxer shorts."

"What's Millionaire Max like?"

"He's a divorced former Prince of Wales graduate who makes in \$1.2m a year developing resort property."

"Info on underwear?"

"None?"

"No information."

"Underwear and he's divorced. What does that say to you? I'll stick with Dipsomaniac David."

But already a small thought was growing in my mind. "Did you say that you only see these men in photographs?"

"Yes."

"So people never see you together in real life but he sounds like the perfect man and as a result people stop speculating as to whom you might be going out with?"

The penny dropped. "It's no good, Angela, she's done it again. Diana has got there first. I'm doomed to be stuck with the Tamagotchi."



Glenda Cooper

said Angela. "A Texas company will send you two photos of some man or other that you can pretend is your boyfriend. They construct this whole character for him – his likes, dislikes, career. It's the perfect bluff."

I sounded like the answer. No Man United, no 12 pints of lager nights, no fights over the remote control, no emotional torture.

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### £10 BUYS A CHAIN CUTTER

This evening, BBC's *Newsround* will feature 'dancing' bears bears like the one above. These bears are chained through their sensitive noses and forced to walk on red hot plates, while the backs of their legs are hit in time to music. Just to teach them to 'dance' for tourists.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) rescues dancing bears and takes them to sanctuaries where they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our life-saving work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can afford, will help cut the chains of innocent animals. So please send your donation today.

### YES, I WANT TO CUT THE CHAINS!

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## Will the real Kurt Vonnegut please log on?

Within the links and connections of the electronic world, myths propagate and flourish at a speed that cannot be attested to by prudence or fact. Consider, on May 31, Mary Schmich, a writer for *The Chicago Tribune*, wrote a column for the paper that began: "Ladies and gentlemen of the class of 1997: Wear sunscreen." Soon after it was published, in a completely unrelated event, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, delivered a commencement (awards) speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). A few days later, by a mysterious hand or in ways that have yet to be traced, the column became attributed to the novelist Kurt Vonnegut. The speech he gave at MIT. More requests started pouring in until Schmich called to tell all around the world by e-mail, even *Wired* magazine extracted a passage, and it was celebrated wherever it went as the author's poignant guide to life.

Even Vonnegut's wife, photographer Jill Krementz, who did not doubt her husband was the author of the address, received it and sent it to his children as an example of dad's cleverness and wisdom: "Don't one thing every day that scares you," the text continued. "Sing." "Don't be reckless with people's hearts. Don't put up with people who are reckless with yours." "Floss." One of the last to know, Vonnegut learnt of "his" work's existence when his agent told him a magazine was going to reprint the speech he gave at MIT. More requests started pouring in until Schmich called to tell all around the world by e-mail, even *Wired* magazine extracted a passage, and it was celebrated wherever it went as the author's poignant guide to life.

To the perplexed author of works such as *The Sirens of Titan* and *Sluggish House-Five*. The 74-year-old writer has as little idea as anyone else as to how this cyberbother – or cyber mistake – was born and the mystery has done nothing to sooth his long-held antipathy toward computers and the Internet as a part of the future not worth trusting. "How can I tell if I'm being kidded or not, or lied to?" he told the *New York Times*. "I don't know what the point is except how gullible people are on the Internet."

Schmich, 43, who once read Vonnegut's novel *Cat's Cradle* at university, denies imitating the author's bitter-sweet style. Putting Vonnegut's name on her writing, she wrote in a later column, "would be like sticking a Calvin Klein label on a pair of K-Mart jeans".

No word

## obituaries / gazette

# Mohammed Al-Jawahri

The Iraqi poet Mohammed Al-Jawahri was regarded by many Arab literary critics and historians as the last of the classic Arab poets. He was among the small handful of larger-than-life figures who have kept classical Arabic – the language of the Muslim holy book, the Koran, and no longer used in everyday language – alive in poetry.

His poetry travelled beyond the borders of Iraq and was recited and studied in academic centres all the way from North Africa to the Gulf. Seven volumes of his works were published in Middle Eastern capitals, including Baghdad, between 1973 and 1980 alone.

His verse was constructed in classic stereometric fashion, remaining faithful in style to the structure of the poetry of Shuaib al-Jahiliyah, the ancient poets of South Arabia who predated the prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam. Like that of his ancestors, Al-Jawahri's poetry served as a reference point for historians of the region, being far more comprehensive than the chronicles of the official history recorders.

His own life seemed to mirror the modern history of Iraq, which since its creation in 1922 has five times plunged into a fresh cycle of destruction, violence and war whenever it was about to complete a chapter of success. The timing and place of Al-Jawahri's death confirmed this impression. He died the day after his 89th birthday, in exile in Damascus. The Baath regime of Saddam Hussein had stripped him of his Iraqi nationality in 1995, and he had sought refuge with Saddam's arch-enemy, the Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad.

He was often criticised for his glorification of violence, as in the poem he published after his brother's violent death during the political upheaval of 1948, but this was simply another reflection of the futility of life in Iraq, for he had witnessed a chain of violent political events.

He was born in the holy Shia city of Al-Najaf in southern Iraq in 1909, to a respected Shia family. The name Al-Jawahri ("the jeweller-smith") was thought to have been given to his great grandfather by the Shia Fuqaha's (the learned clergy), who were impressed by the 18th-century scholar's literature textbook *Jawahir-al-A'am* ("The Jewels of Words").

Two years later his best-



Al-Jawahri (his name meant 'the jeweller-smith'); 'I shall remain tall while tyrants' lives are short'

known anthology, *Diywan Al-Jawahri*, was published in Baghdad. He gained respect as a poet and journalist, mainly on the arts pages of newspapers and journals and as a columnist who was critical of the monarchy and the British presence in Iraq. He founded his own daily paper, *Ara al-A'am* ("Public Opinion").

He was close to and supported the Iraqi Communists, the largest populist party in Iraq until the second Baathist takeover in 1968 – and in 1948 he published the Arabic language's most famous pro-Communist poem, "The Red Army".

In the next few years, his fame travelled beyond Iraq's borders, when he left Baghdad for Cairo in 1952 after clashes with the change of regimes.

His love affair with the court eventually cooled off, and in 1933 Al-Jawahri lost his school-teaching job following a clash with top civil servants at the ministry who accused him of giving too much praise to Shia Islam in his verse.

Two years later his best-

known anthology, *Diywan Al-Jawahri*, was published in Baghdad. He gained respect as a poet and journalist, mainly on the arts pages of newspapers and journals and as a columnist who was critical of the monarchy and the British presence in Iraq. He founded his own daily paper, *Ara al-A'am* ("Public Opinion").

He had been elected several times to the Iraqi parliament in the 1940s – which ended with the slaughter of the royal family in 1958 in the bloody coup led by General Abd al-Karim Qasim, supported by the Communists and by Al-Jawahri, who returned to Iraq to become the chairman of the writers' union.

Following the internal power struggle between the Communists and the Nationalists – backed by the Egyptian pan-Arabist leader Colonel Nasser – Al-Jawahri went into exile in Prague in 1961. He had returned with the 1968 Baath-led coup, but the Baath-Communist

alliance was short-lived, and Al-Jawahri went into a third exile in Syria.

Contrary to the belief in some Arab literary circles, he was not a democrat. He supported successive military coups starting with 1941 Rashid Ali, that was ended by the swift British march on Baghdad, and most of the coups that followed.

His ambition was to complete a 10-volume epic study of Arab poets, *Al-Jamhara* ("The Crowd"), but the death of his wife in 1992 and his son earlier this year, combined with poor health and damage to his eyes, and constantly moving from one country to another, prevented him from finishing more than three of the volumes. He had returned to Iraq

briefly in 1978 and left a year later after Saddam Hussein consolidated his grip on power in an internal Stalinist-style bloody purge. He moved between several Middle Eastern and European capitals. Ironically he finally settled in Syria where he was given special treatment by the Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad, a dictator whose brutality against his own people is second only to that of Saddam Hussein.

### Adel Darwisch

**Mohammed Mahdi Ibn Al-Hussein Ali Ibn Sahib Al-Jawahri**, poet, writer and Arabic scholar; born Al-Najaf, Iraq 26 July 1939; married (three sons, three daughters, and one son deceased); died Damascus 27 July 1997.

## Professor Kenneth Haley

Kenneth Haley's was a decided, if understated, academic success story which deserves celebration.

At the most obvious level it was an apparently effortless progress: a scholarship from Huddersfield College to Balliol, crowned by a first in History, followed by Sheffield University where he was successively assistant lecturer, lecturer, senior lecturer and Professor of Modern History, and Professor of Modern History. This brought in its inevitable train the headship of department and the deanship of the Faculty of Arts, but its academic ballast was a sustained succession of books on 17th-century English, Dutch, and Anglo-Dutch history, which have survived changes of fashion. The accolade came in retirement with a Fellowship of the British Academy.

Yet no progress is effortless, and Haley's was accompanied by relentless ill-health: psoriatic arthritis, latterly complicated

by diabetes and increasing blindness. It was also accompanied by relentless change in British universities. Haley taught at Sheffield from 1947 to 1982. When he arrived Sheffield, like most such places, was more red-brick than civic, and it was certainly not "old", whatever that means. Its History Department was as small and as idiosyncratic as any. It was the stuff of which novels are made. This was the climate which formed him.

In those last days lecturers still wore gowns and addressed female undergraduates as "Miss Smith" rather than Tracey, and male ones as "Smith" rather than Darren. Professors were weighty people, usually men, with a clear place in the hierarchy – a role which in some ways they have regained on the eve of Dearing. Kenneth Haley was in his early fifties when he was appointed to his chair, on the eve of Robbins.

The qualities which contributed to his scholarly standing and his determined battle for health also contributed to the quiet transformation of the Sheffield History Department. There was steady but not precipitate enlargement, and Haley could be justifiably proud of the appointments made between 1964 and 1982.

Inevitably many of those appointed in his time were Young Turks sceptical of hierarchy and impatient of steadiness. Consequently there were tensions, but they were healthy and educative ones, again because of Haley's formative qualities. For this professor of an older school (however young at the time of his appointment) was also a liberal and a Methodist with a genuine concern for consensus (however much it seemed to some junior colleagues that it was often a consensus of one), and an equal concern for his students (he was an early believer

in compulsory field courses at stately if faded homes), and a palpable integrity (which did not prevent him from being a shrewd operator).

He had been a junior colleague of his was an experience for which many now approaching retirement can feel grateful: the insistence that third-year special subjects should be soundly based on primary sources, the rigorous training in how to construct examination questions, each one scrutinised by unblinking colleagues in plenary session; the constant awareness of the student barrack-room lawyer, a character then quite unknown but now increasingly common; the refusal to cut corners. Kenneth Haley in fact maintained quality control which was quite as effective as any now fashionable and far harder to circumvent.

Undergirding this were unexpected but crucial things. It is impossible to think of him as an early believer

without thinking also of his wife, Iris, to whom his debt was immeasurable; or of their strenuous family holidays; or of the Methodist Church, where he took a young people's class which encouraged at least three future Methodist ministers; or of his undeviating commitment to Yorkshire county cricket, with which no academic business ever interfered; or of the Braille which he learnt in good time to combat the onset of blindness; or, for inevitably we return to his scholarly discipline, of the Dutch which he taught himself, and of the nature of his historical interests.

How many of his southern

students were initially misled by their expectations of this Yorkshire Methodist's special subject on Charles II? But his books, which include *William of Orange and the English Opposition 1672-1674* (1953), *The First Earl of Shrewsbury* (1968; his *magnum opus*), *The Dutch in the Seven-*

*teenth Century* (1972), *An English Diplomat in the Low Countries: Sir William Temple and John De Witt 1655-1672* (1986), show a concentrated, cumulative, sure-footed understanding of a deceptively wide swath of political, diplomatic, religious, and cultural history in an extraordinarily complex field.

At his heart was a relish for the Netherlands, that most civilised of countries, and it was at Anglo-Dutch colloquia that Kenneth Haley could be seen at his best and most relaxed. His priorities were, after all, the right ones.

### Clyde Binfield

**Kenneth Harold Dobson Haley**, historian; born Southport, Lancashire 19 April 1920; Professor of Modern History 1962-82, Sheffield University (Emeritus); Dean of Faculty of Arts 1979-81; FBA 1987; married 1948 Iris Houghton (one son, two daughters); died 2 July 1997.

## Jonathan Bodlender

Jonathan Bodlender was a gallant world traveller whose laughter and bright visions accompanied many through the roads and hosteries of Europe. He was a guide and adviser on tourism in hotels and restaurants and governments, ranging from Great Britain to Bulgaria, Switzerland, Israel, France and the Far East. There was no one in the leisure industry whom he did not know.

He was a Yorkshirian, educated at Bootham School in York, and then attended the London School of Economics.

He joined the firm of Horwath and Horwath UK (later the Horwath Consulting Co) in 1968 as a chartered accountant, and was put in charge of its leisure industry section. There, his energy and enthusiasm helped him establish a loyal client base. The infrastructure of the hotel trade came to fascinate him, and he soon travelled all over the world presenting feasibility studies on the setting-up of hotels and leisure centres. In recent years, this resulted in successful projects in the

Seychelles, Syria and Jordan. He also organised a World Conference on Tourism in Israel, and himself became an inveterate tourist. He lived life to the full. As a student, he had (in 1957) founded and chaired London University's Wine and Food Society. He loved good food. He collected Chinese snuffboxes and unusual friends from all parts of the world. He was endearing with a never-ending curiosity; he possessed a sense of humour and an enjoyment of gossip which never verged to

wards the malicious; he cared too much for people in enter that dark area.

Ill-health led to his semi-retirement from Horwath after he had served as chairman of the company from 1989 to 1993. It did not suit his temperament. A year later, he returned as chairman of Horwath UK, where he remained until his death. He was also chairman of Horwath Consulting Europe, and special adviser on investment to the World Tourist Organisation. From 1979 to 1983 he was a member of the English Tourist

Board. He also had a home in the South of France.

Bodlender's publications include *Profile of Government Financial and Grant Aid in Tourism* (with J.G. Davies, 1984), *Tourism: a portrait* (1988) and *Guide Lines to Hotel and Leisure Project Financing* (with T. Ward and M. Dillon, 1991).

### Albert H. Friedlander

**Jonathan Bodlender**, accountant and tourism adviser; born 29 November 1928; CBE 1996; married 1979 Catherine Schmitz; died London 30 July 1997.



Bodlender: inveterate tourist  
BIRTHS  
PATMORE: On 18 July, at Bedford Hospital, to Rosanna (née Greenstreet) and James, a daughter, Georgia May.

Announcements for **BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** should be sent to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5JL. Please phone 0171-293 2811 or fax 0171-293 2810. Charges are £5.50 for the **15x25** size.

ton MP, 53; Mr David Logan, ambassador to Turkey, 54; Miss Anna Massey, actress, 60; Admiral Sir Julian Escriva, former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 69; Mr Don Boyd, film director, 49; Sir Geoffrey Case, Chairman, Royal Shakespeare Company, 65; Mr Alan Dall, actress, 73; Mr James Eaton, Lord Lieutenant, County Borough of London, 70; Professor John Fincham, poet, 71; Professor Bob Hepple, Master, Clare College, Cambridge, 63; Professor Alun Hoddinott, composer, 68; Professor Derry Jeffeys, literary scholar, 77; Sir Aaron King, molecular biologist, 71; Mr Raymond Lepard, conductor, 70; Mr Martin Lin-

der, 1656; Arthur Elphinstone, sixth Baron Balmerino, executed 1746; Henry James Pye, poet, 1813; Sir Samuel Auchmuty, general, 1822; Marshall Hall, physiologist, 1857; James Wilson, founder of the *Economist*, 1860; Richard Monckton Milnes, first Baron Houghton, MP and poet, 1885; John Henry Newman, Cardinal, 1890; Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist, 1919; Hugh MacDiarmid (Christopher Murray Grieve), poet, 1892; Enid Blyton, children's author, 1897; Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida, painter, 1923; Edith Newbold Jones Wharton, novelist, 1937; Paul Jackson Pollock, painter, 1945; Julian Tzetzel, Dominican monk and seller of indulgences, 1519; Ottavio Piccolomini, Duke of Amalfi, military command-

er, 1718; Penang was ceded to Britain by the Rajah of Kedah, 1786; during severe earthquakes in the Azores, the village of São Miguel sank, 1810; the bridge at Walton-on-Thames collapsed, 1859; the "moons" of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, were discovered by Professor Asaph Hall, 1877; after the collapse of a burning bridge at Chatsworth, Illinois, 81 passengers in a train were killed, 1887; the Atlantic Charter was signed by Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt, 1941; the new Waterloo Bridge, London, was opened to traffic, 1942; King Talal of Jordan was deposed because of mental illness, 1952; King Hussein succeeded to the throne of Jordan, 1952; the French colony of Chad became independent, 1960; in Bangladesh, monsoon floods resulted in the deaths of over 2,000 people, 1974; a burst dam on the Kaveri river, Gujarat, India, resulted in a death toll of over 5,000 people, 1979; Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander of Comana, St Athra, St Araght, St Blane, St Clare of Assisi, St Equinus, St Gerard of Galicia, St Gery or Gaugericus, St Leila, St Susanna and St Tiburtius.

### Appointments

**Mr Christopher Meyer**, to be ambassador to the United States of America.

Mr Paul Lever, to be ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr Gavin Hewitt, to be ambassador to the Republic of Finland. Mr David Broucher, to be ambassador to the Czech Republic. Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC and Mr Jack Straw MP, to be Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple. The Duchess of Gloucester, to be Patron of the Progressive Supranational Party (PSP) Association.

### Changing of the Guard

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounted the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Royal Horse Artillery.

## Anthony Clark

Anthony Clark contributed much to archaeological science, but will be remembered particularly as a pioneer in the use of geophysical prospecting methods which are now indispensable to much practical field archaeology.

By means of fieldwork he demonstrated the archaeological potential of a series of novel instrumental techniques which now form the basis of a small industry. He did this with a directness and originality which he would have been pleased to see as part of a worthy British tradition of underfunded scientific ingenuity, but also brought to his work the methods and awareness of a skilled field archaeologist.

Clark was conscious of following in the tradition of such notable earlier archaeological fieldworkers as LD Margary and O.G.S. Crawford, with their emphasis on the continuity and significance of each detail of the landscape, and he wished to extend their methods by introducing new sources of evidence. His archaeological career began when he was a precocious schoolboy excavator, and continued when he managed to turn even the experience of National Service to relevant effect.

He trained in aerial photographic interpretation with the RAF at Nuffield Park in Oxfordshire, and heard during this improbable military interlude of the early experiments with resistivity surveying which Professor Richard Atkinson used to detect ploughed-out barrow ditches from 1946 onwards. This encounter made a lasting impression and in 1956 Clark, together with a colleague also employed at the Distillers' Company, developed the Martin Clark resistivity meter. This was a lightweight device specifically intended for archaeological work, the prototype of which later found a place in the Science Museum.

Clark devoted much effort in subsequent years to experiments investigating the complex climatic and seasonal influences on the resistivity response from a variety of archaeological features, and this work later formed the basis of the thesis for which he was awarded a PhD by Southampton University in 1980.

In 1967 Tony Clark was appointed to be the country's first full-time specialist in archaeological geophysics at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, which formed part of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments at the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. Archaeological prospecting requires intensive ground coverage to detect the minute physical traces of past human activity, and so remains a laborious pursuit. Clark found this to be particularly the case in his single-handed early days, but he at length built up a team which continues as part of English Heritage today.

From the late 1960s, magnetometer surveying, which had previously been investigated at the Oxford Archaeology Laboratory and elsewhere, became a more practical option following the development of a new and more portable magnetometer in response to police requirements for ground searching equipment. Clark was responsible for a series of classic demonstrations of the value of this device, which he applied with characteristic directness. He walked across Hampshire watching a flickering dial, and thereby added significantly to the archaeological record along the line of the proposed M3.

By similar methods, combined with an interpretive boldness which few of his colleagues would have cared to match, he identified the campfire sites of the original builders behind the ramparts of an unfinished Surrey hillfort, and with an elegant economy of method he sorted a number of Hampshire hillforts in the course of a brief stay in occupied settlements and uninhabited refuges.

Clark also did much to promote the acceptance of magnetic susceptibility surveying, another technique which emerged from the Oxford Laboratory as a means of predicting

"Citizens' Action Against Misery" – won him a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. A haemophiliac, he died of AIDS.

**Anthony John Clark**, archaeologist; born Guildford, Surrey 22 March 1930; married 1960 Una Millet (died 1996; two sons); died Farnham, Surrey 3 June 1997.

Mr Paul Lever, to be ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr Gavin Hewitt, to be ambassador to the Republic of Finland. Mr David Broucher, to be ambassador to the Czech Republic. Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC and Mr Jack Straw MP, to be Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple. The Duchess of Gloucester, to be Patron of the Progressive Supranational Party (PSP) Association.

### Changing of the Guard

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounted the Queen's Life Guard



# business & city

FINANCIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE YEAR

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2836 fax 0171-293 2088  
DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

## Red faces as Revenue assesses computer bungle

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The Inland Revenue is battling to salvage a multi-million pound project to computerise the new self-assessment tax return form after a series of delays and embarrassing technical problems.

The Revenue has launched a review into the scheme - the Electronic Lodgement Service (ELS) - after admitting last week that 20 per cent of returns

sent through the new computer link were being rejected by the equipment.

Managers have also had to apologise to at least one accountancy practice after mistakenly sending out the wrong batch of security passwords. Brian Handley, project manager, blamed the mistake on a clerical error. "It was very unfortunate. I personally apologised to the person concerned. We're trying to make sure it'll never happen again."

When it launched ELS in April, the Revenue said it expected 500,000 tax returns to be sent electronically by the 31 January closing date for self-assessed forms. The three-year-old project includes EDS, the computer giant responsible for many civil service networks, and defence to telecommunications group Racal.

Yet almost four months after its launch, only 900 tax returns have been submitted, of which almost 200 have been inexplicably rejected, despite being correctly completed. Of the 3,000 firms of accountants and tax assessors, known in the trade as agents, which have applied to join the ELS network, only 160 have made it.

Software companies, which have devised Revenue-approved computer programmes for the form on screen, blame the Revenue's software and hardware which have not been corrected. We hope they are going to be sorted out soon."

Mr Handley said the review

a modern, was supplied with built-in errors.

Andrew Bolton, from the Surrey-based Quality Management Software, praised the idea behind the project, but not the execution. "I want it to work, because we've put a lot of time and effort into the project. But there are still problems with the Revenue's software and hardware which have not been corrected. We hope they are going to be sorted out soon."

Mr Handley said the review

for the Revenue is huge. ELS by-passes local tax offices where staff numbers are being cut. To encourage agents to go online, the Revenue is sending out free modems worth around £50 each.

The Revenue insisted ELS would not suffer the same fate as other high-profile computer projects, such as the Stock Exchange's ill-fated Taurus system. "What we've experienced is obviously not unexpected when you are trying to remove the pa-

per chain and that doesn't happen easily," Mr Handley said.

"At the moment a higher number of returns is being reflected than in the longer term. The reasons can generally be described as teething troubles. We've identified... minor problems in our own area."

Despite the delays, the Revenue warned that forms submitted late using the ELS system would incur the same interest penalties as those sent through the post.

## Dalgety shores up defences on takeover talk

Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

Dalgety, the troubled Winalot and Felix petfoods group whose shares have been devastated by two profits warnings in three months, has been preparing a bid defence in anticipation of a hostile takeover attempt.

Richard Clothier, Dalgety's chief executive, has been working closely with Lazard Frères, the group's financial adviser and Cazenove, its broker, on how best to fight any break-up bid which analysis says could value the group at £1bn. The shares closed at 250.5p on Friday, valuing the company at £730m.



Richard Clothier: Talking to financial advisers

News of Dalgety's contingency plans come as the company yesterday denied any knowledge that ING Barings, the investment bank, plans a £900m break-up bid.

The bank is understood to have approached several large food groups such as Nestlé, Associated British Foods and Ralston Purina of the United States, to see if they would be interested in buying all or part of the group.

The deal would see one of the companies make a bid for Dalgety and then sell off the unwanted operations to other food groups. Nestlé and Ralston Purina might be interested in Dalgety's pet food businesses while ABF, Garry Weston's food combine which has a £5bn cash pile, may be keen to snap up the animal feeds and fertilisers interests. It may also be interested in the ingredients division.

Though Dalgety says it is unaware of Barings' plans, the fact that it is already planning to shore up its defences makes it clear that it has been expecting a bid. Several brokers, including UBS, have recently issued circulars placing break-up values of around 350p on the group.

Dalgety shares have been as low as 220p but rose by almost 15 per cent last week. Though turnover in the stock was relatively low there was one buying order from an institution which picked up 2 million shares.

In its defence Dalgety will claim it has been the victim of exceptional circumstances such as the BSE scare and a European ban on the export of pet food. The defence could see Dalgety jettison its food ingredients business, the milling operation and possibly the Pig Improvement Company, a meat group seen as one of Dalgety's best businesses.

Mr Clothier said at the time of the last profits warning that disposals were possible. Though he has said there are "no sacred cows", a decision to sell the pet food business would almost certainly see his departure as he has built his whole strategy on this sector following the group's £470m acquisition of Quaker's European petfoods businesses two years ago.

Dalgety is vulnerable to a bid after a terrible performance in the last year which has seen its shares fall from around 350p to 250.5p. In May it issued a profits warning caused by production problems and the on-going effects of the BSE crisis.

Last month it issued a further warning due to disappointing trading.

Dalgety shares have been as low as 220p but rose by almost



Source: Bloomberg

## Pitcher poised to step down at United

Chris Godsmark

Sir Desmond Pitcher is this week expected to give way to intense shareholder criticism and agree to step down by the end of this year from his post as executive chairman of United Utilities.

Directors of the multi-utility group are to hold an emergency board meeting tomorrow to discuss the unprecedented shareholder revolt that began last month when the company ousted Brian Staples, chief executive, after a spectacular boardroom split.

United Utilities yesterday sought to play down speculation of another rift involving Sir Desmond, this time with Sir Peter Middleton, the non-executive director who has been taking private soundings with the group's leading shareholders. The meetings were organised by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, United's broker.

Most institutions have told Sir Peter they wanted to see Sir Desmond leave by the end of the year, although the responses said to be "less extreme" than reports had suggested.

Sources close to United stressed that the board meeting might not resolve the issue immediately, but admitted that Sir Desmond had little hope of staying as executive chairman until his official retirement date of 2000. One option being canvassed was that he would leave

the company by Christmas, a move which would satisfy most institutions by establishing an orderly succession process.

It would also change the complexion of the review into the group's operations launched last month by Derek Green, who replaced Mr Staples as chief executive. Mr Green, 57, ran United's core utility businesses, North West Water and Norwich, and is also due to retire in 2000.

The review, which will be completed by October, will now spend much more time on the succession issue. The company is almost certain to bow to shareholder pressure and downgrade the job of chairman to a non-executive role.

Sir Desmond was given the results of Sir Peter's meetings late last week and was said to be "not at all dismayed" by the criticism. However, sources suggested he had begun to accept that he could not stay with the group until 2000. "He's a fighter, but he's also a realist. He'll be in listening mode. These are the views of our owners and they have to be heard," one said.

Another factor working against Sir Desmond is the arrival next month of Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, as a new non-executive director. Sir Richard is understood to be anxious that the Pitcher issue is resolved by the time he joins the board.

## Siemens asks suppliers to switch to euro

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

More than 14,000 British companies which supply the UK businesses of Siemens, the German electrical giant, are to be asked to switch from the pound to the European single currency in two years.

Siemens UK, which conducts business largely in sterling and bad sales last year of £1.5bn, will make presentations and hold seminars with suppliers from October to

explain the change. The shift in Siemens' accounting policy will be implemented across the EU, regardless of whether the British government stays out of European monetary union (EMU).

Planning for EMU began at Siemens in 1995 and is now at an advanced stage. The German board has decided that from 1 October 1999 the group will adopt the currency in all its European operations and draw up its accounts exclusively in euros.

The currency itself is due to start from 1 January 1999, though companies are not obliged to use it until 2002.

Bernd Euler, Siemens' UK finance director, will continue the seminars intermittently until 1999. Suppliers, many of which are small or medium-sized companies, will be given advice on changing their payment systems and dealing with the banks.

Siemens' British businesses, which make everything from traffic control systems to elec-

tricity meters, spent around £1.3bn in the UK on goods and services last year.

Only prices of products which are generally internationally quoted in dollars, such as computer memory chips, are likely to be excluded.

"If they want the business then suppliers will probably be prepared to price things in euros, but we won't discriminate against them if they want to keep using sterling," a spokesman said.

One of the biggest advan-

tages of the single currency for large groups is that it would make it easy to switch suppliers, allowing much clearer price comparisons.

However, for the suppliers themselves it could make life harder, given the likelihood of continued sharp swings in sterling's value.

Despite the move to the euro, Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens in the UK, is expected to avoid attacking Labour's detached poli-

cy on EMU. Mr Gehrels was an outspoken critic of the previous government's reluctance to commit itself to closer European integration, warning that it could affect future investment decisions.

However, he has indicated since the election that the currency will be introduced "through the back door" by other European multinationals.

A Siemens spokesman said the accounting change was not a way of the company "trying to blackmail governments".

## Dow jitters may be contagious

City Staff

The stock market faces a turbulent opening session this morning after Friday's sharp drop on Wall Street.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, took the index down to 8,031.22 and could force the FTSE below the 5,000 barrier.

The Dow's tumble had already knocked 55 points off the blue chip index when London closed on Friday, as financial and pharmaceutical stocks,

which have led Footsie's rally, fell back and second-line stocks picked up the running.

The leading 100 index eventually closed at 5,031.3, having slithered within a whisker of 5,000 at one stage.

With only a handful of large companies reporting this week as the holiday season gets into full swing, dealers are expecting markets to be sensitive to currency movements and a host of economic data.

Several industrial groups such as Glynwed, the engineering

conglomerate, BICC the cables group, BOC, the industrial gases company, are all expected to report results affected by the strength of sterling.

Producer prices figures for July, due for release today are expected to show a 0.1 per cent increase on June and a 1.1 per cent increase year on year.

Motoring costs are likely to rise by 0.4 per cent a month and 5.7 per cent year on year. However, on the high street, prices will be lower as the summer sales get under way. Clothing

and footwear and seasonal food will see the largest decreases.

In June a 5 per cent increase in seasonal food prices, the product of the wet weather, was an important contributor to the overall increase in June.

Retail prices for July, due tomorrow, will show the Budget's impact on petrol duties and the effects of higher mortgage costs. The two factors are expected to take headline inflation to 3.2 per cent year on year with July's figure 0.1 per cent lower than June's.

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FTSE 250	4850.50	+192.1	+3.8	4728.40	4386.20	3.57			
FTSE 350	2415.80	+97.3	+2.9	2432.30	2017.90	3.33			
FTSE Smallcap	2209.78	+21.1	+1.0	2374.20	2178.29	3.24			
FTSE All-Share	2354.83	+62.9	+2.7	2389.07	1989.76	3.33			
New York	8031.22	-162.8	-2.0	8259.31	5032.94	1.59			
Tokyo	19604.46	-199.1	-1.0	20681.07	17303.85	2.07			
Hong Kong	4854.54	+268.3	+1.6	18573.27	12055.17	2.61			
Frankfurt	4854.15	-54.6	-1.2	4438.93	2848.77	1.26			

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates</									



## news

# For sale: remnants of a royal marriage



**Jojo Moyes**  
inspects the contents of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's Paris home, to be auctioned in New York next month

On the mahogany desk sits an album containing wedding pictures, a couple of framed photographs and a box in which to store documents. Only one item gives a clue to its significance: a brass plaque announcing: "On this table King Edward VIII signed the instrument of abdication 10.30am on December 10th 1936".

While the eyes of the world are firmly focused on one blossoming royal romance, an intriguing view of another, equally controversial, is on display.

The desk is one of the highlights of an exhibition of contents from the Paris home of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, to be sold by Sotheby's New York next month. The exhibition, which will be on view in London until Friday, documents the life of Edward VIII and American divorcee Wallis Simpson, for whom he gave up the throne. The auction of more than 40,000 pieces, was described by Sotheby's specialist Joseph Friedman as "the greatest sale of royal possessions we can remember, and certainly for hundreds of years".

There are photographs, letters, clothes, silverware, paintings, ceramics, clocks, coins and medals, books, private papers, and trinkets collected by the couple from childhood to their deaths. The collection is owned by Mohamed Al-Fayed, most recently in the news because of another divorce's relationship with a member of the royal family – his son Dodi's romance with the Princess of Wales.

Mr Fayed acquired the collection after the death of the Duchess of Windsor in 1986, and it has since been restored and exhibited at the Windsor residence in Paris.

In comments made before the recent press furore over his son, Mr Fayed said of his decision to sell: "It has been a very hard decision to dispose of the things I love. However I have a young and growing family and



Legacy of love: Main picture, a member of Sotheby's staff looking at the display on Edward VIII's 'Abdication Desk'. Above left, a portrait inscribed: 'To my Wallis from her David'

Photographs: Kalpesh Lathigra

... I now wish to make more use of the Windsor residence."

Highlights of the London preview, which runs until Friday, include the ceremonial sword used in the Duke of Windsor's investiture as Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle in 1911 and the couple's wedding album. Personal keepsakes include a private diary of the then Prince of Wales's tour to Australia.

But a constitutional storm was brewing" between himself, his wife and the King brought to an end. He met with the King and apparently an arrangement was made whereby Mr Simpson would end his marriage if the King promised to remain faithful to Wallis. The engraved initials WE on the frame illustrate the way the couple subsequently referred to themselves.

The Duke and Duchess married on 3 June 1937. A wedding album compiled by renowned photographer Cecil Beaton – a distant relative of Mrs Simpson's – forms part of the collection. The day was referred to by Mrs Simpson afterwards as "a supremely happy moment. All I had been through, all the hurts I had suffered, were forgotten". The collection even features a boxed piece of their wedding cake.

The exhibition also has a portrait of Mrs Simpson taken by Beaton shortly afterwards. Beaton's diaries praise her "nobility, grace and high cheekbones, rugged mouth and excessively bright humorous eyes".

From earlier days a portrait of the young Prince Edward with his great grandmother Queen Victoria is signed in by her: "Gangan and Little David 1896". A Book of Common Prayer from his other grandmother, Queen Alexandra, is inscribed: "For my darling little

David (Edward) [sic] on his 7th birthday when he went to Church for the first time from his loving old Granny".

One photograph commemorates Wallis's presentation at court. A letter written by her at the time reveals that she had borrowed the whole outfit and wore imitation jewels: "imitations but effective". She would not be wearing imitations for

long. Sotheby's sold her astonishing jewellery collection in 1987, and none are in this sale.

But the collection – although not the London exhibition of it – does contain the Duke and Duchess's clothes.

The Duke popularized Fair Isle sweaters, flat tweed caps and invented the Windsor knot, which he considered the most elegant finish to a necktie. "To

gether they were the most fashionable couple of the 20th century," said Kerry Taylor, Sotheby's London director of costumes and textiles.

When Mr Fayed bought the

contents of the Windsor home for £3m, he outbid several military museums, and pledged that he would strive to keep the collection together. "Britain is my second home, I feel I have

a duty to keep together a collection that otherwise would have been dispersed forever," he said at the time. His decision to sell prompts fears that much will be lost to Britain.

All net proceeds of the sale are to go to the Al-Fayed International Charitable Foundation, and will contribute to causes including medical research into childhood diseases.



The Windsors' Paris home, bought by Al-Fayed in 1986

New Zealand and colonies in the Atlantic and Pacific in 1920. Mr Friedman said: "We tried to focus it on the Duke's career as Prince of Wales and as King."

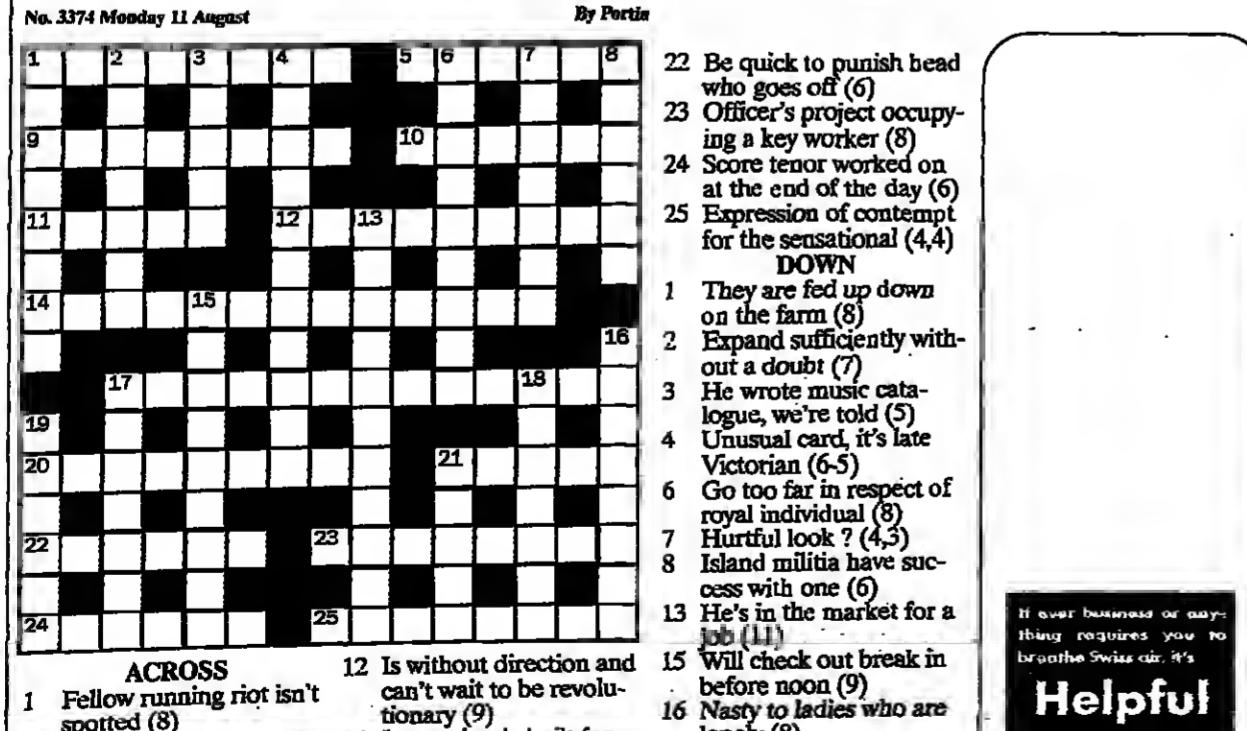
Two joined portraits of Edward VIII date from the period when his affair with Mrs Simpson had begun to cause ripples of discontent. Early in 1936, Ernest Simpson was said to want the "unsatisfactory sit-

ting", and lot 53 is a copy of the official report of Edward VIII's abdication. On hearing of the King's intention to abdicate, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin responded: "No more grave message has ever been received by Parliament and no more difficult, I may say repugnant, task has ever been imposed upon a prime minister". Perhaps the highlight of the exhibition is

growing, and lot 53 is a copy of the official report of Edward VIII's abdication. On hearing of the King's intention to abdicate, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin responded: "No more grave message has ever been received by Parliament and no more difficult, I may say repugnant, task has ever been imposed upon a prime minister". Perhaps the highlight of the exhibition is

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By Portia



**ACROSS**

- Fellow running riot isn't spotted (8)
- Retiring manner associated with holy woman (6)
- A nuisance getting in to examine hanging (8)
- Not very old bearings want welding together (6)
- Pollute part of the delta in time (5)
- Is without direction and can't wait to be revolutionary (9)
- It was clearly built for exhibition purposes (7,6)
- Crucial smash I produce to win game (7)
- Made money but applied to get out at finish (3,4,2)
- Conceited youth with the Italian student (5)
- Is without direction and can't wait to be revolutionary (9)
- It was clearly built for exhibition purposes (7,6)
- Crucial smash I produce to win game (7)
- Made money but applied to get out at finish (3,4,2)
- Conceited youth with the Italian student (5)



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